



## Dan Jones

### Local Security Management Specialist

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#### **What is your job title, what does it involve day-to-day and how long have you been working in that role and/or at the Trust?**

I’m the local security management specialist for the Trust, otherwise known in some circles as ‘Dan Dan the Security Man’! I’ve been in this role for around two and a half years but I’ve been in the Trust for just short of 10 years as a prevention and management of violence and aggression (PMVA) tutor previously. My role involves being responsible for security within the Trust and ensuring that staff, service users and the public are as safe as possible. Where they aren’t, it’s about providing advice and recommendations to reduce or mitigate risks. I also support in holding to account people who commit criminal offences against the Trust or its staff. A big part of the job involves liaising with and supporting the police to do their job, and making sure that the correct information flows both ways between the organisations.

#### **Why did you choose to work for the NHS?**

I worked in private healthcare for around five years in secure mental health care. Working for the NHS seemed to be the logical step, not just for my career, but because it’s so diverse and deals with people from all walks of life. That and the Trust had a good job going at the time!

#### **What’s your favourite part about your job?**

Meeting people and trying to help them. Clichéd as it sounds, I genuinely feel like I make a difference and that’s a really good feeling. I also find the criminal law and how it interacts with other laws, such as mental health laws, fascinating. It’s the one true constant in an area of work that is anything but consistent. The law never changes, it’s unwavering and it’s unbiased. All of those things come into it when we start to interpret it, or in some cases misinterpret it, but the law itself never changes.

#### **What’s the most challenging part about your job?**

It’s a really difficult thing to have to do, but sometimes you have to tell someone that as much as you want to help, you just can’t - be that for legal reasons, the current

financial climate or because I simply don't know how to. Either way, it's really tough to not be able to solve someone's problem, especially when they have contacted you in the hope that you can. The other challenging bit is balancing the security aspect with the therapeutic needs of our core business. Within this is the constant struggle between criminal law and mental health law. But underneath it all are people, and fundamentally it's about doing the best job I can for them, be that the victim of a crime or indeed the perpetrator of a crime. Both need support, fairness and compassion in equal measures.

#### **Tell us about:**

##### **a time you were really proud of your work**

Last year we ran a 'day of action' at The Becklin Centre focusing on the use of illicit drugs and made a public statement about how we were struggling to manage this particular issue. This was a huge bit of work, bringing together multiple parts of the Trust like nursing, security and communications with outside agencies and the police. We even got media coverage in the Yorkshire Evening Post praising what we'd done. This was for me, a brilliant example of partnership working and putting the needs of our service users and the public first.

##### **your fondest memory of working at the Trust**

This is a really difficult question because I have so many. I've laughed like I've never laughed before at work, and I've cried like never before too. Working in healthcare, and particularly in the NHS, can present so many highly emotive situations, it's really hard to pick just one. If I had to, it would probably be running the quizzes at the end of the PMVA five day courses. We learnt early on that if we as tutors asked the participants to set the questions for each other, they were far crueller and more competitive. As a result, we developed a scoring system that was as corrupt and unfair as possible, leading to some of the funniest times I've had at the Trust.

##### **What do our values of integrity, simplicity and caring mean to you? How do you show these values in the work that you do?**

They are just that - integral. Without them, we wouldn't be able to function, and we would lose the faith of the public in what we do. When you work in the NHS, regardless of your role, you recognise that everything you do affects the welfare of other people...and that's a big responsibility. As a result, we have to make sure we're doing the right thing at all times and that we don't over complicate situations - something I'm guilty of. Most of all we need to care about the people we help, the staff we work with, and the Trust as a whole. We've all seen in the news that when we lose these things, it can cause real harm to others.

##### **What message would you give to inspire the future NHS workforce in your area of work or in general?**

Times are hard at the moment. The NHS faces its biggest challenges in a long time, both financial and human, yet we've faced worse and come through it. The NHS is unlike any other organisation in the world, not only in how it is set up, or funded, but in how the rest of the world views it - with envy and admiration. We work for that organisation and we make it what it is. Whatever is happening politically, we keep coming to work and we keep doing the best we possibly can to help people. If that doesn't deserve some admiration, I don't know what does!

##### **How has the NHS made a difference to you/how have you seen the NHS help people?**

It's developed me as a person and a professional. Without the NHS I wouldn't be in the position I am now and I wouldn't be able to do the things I do. From a personal perspective, the NHS has saved my life, saved my wife's lives, my son's life, and brought my three children into the world. It has provided care for my grandparents, parents and has helped me through some of the darker times in my life without judgment and with compassion. It's ingrained in all of our lives, silently, behind the scenes, making sure we are as ok as we can be and we never notice it. The great thing about NHS 70, is that the NHS is finally getting the recognition it deserves.