Sue Armstrong

Head of Westlakes Shared Service Centre

Qualifications: Charted Accountant, Financial Training, Newcastle (ACMA, CGMA, MAPM)

It was the size and complexity of the nuclear industry that attracted me to it in the beginning; I wanted a real challenge in an environment where I could continue to learn and to be part of a sector with an exciting future ahead of it. Whilst I am office based, I have always worked in industrial environments and love the buzz they provide.

I lead a team of more than 80 people providing diverse business services to Sellafield Ltd and other external customers, mainly within the NDA estate.

I want to develop everyone in the team to fulfil their potential and enhance the service we provide. It's a fast-moving department which drives targets whilst focusing on customer service and effective governance. There's high level of Stakeholder Management.

I think being a young woman starting a family and a career has been one of the biggest challenges for me. I decided to study for an HNC whilst looking after a two-year-old daughter and working full time. I then had my second daughter and began studying to be an accountant when she was just a year old. At home I burned the midnight oil after my daughters had gone to bed, and even took books on holiday to study. I travelled to Newcastle at weekends to do courses, getting up at 4am to get there. It was a very challenging time; there was no such thing as flexible family working then!

I am currently in training to be a Communications Controller on the Site Emergency Duty team; it allows me to value and giving something back to Sellafield Ltd in return for the fantastic career it has given me.

I am where I want to be in terms of level within the organisation – a position I never expected to reach when I joined.

There are a number of elements that make for a successful career.

- Be well organised; look at your life holistically rather than separating work and home
- Be prepared to be flexible
- Be balanced
- Decide what you want – Half-hearted decisions don't work
- If your career is not right for you, change it, don't fight something that is not right
- Work equally with everyone and don't play the 'woman card'
- Be committed to everything you do - family, friends and career
- Value friendships and nurture them, outside and inside work. They provide an emotional network you'll need at times
- Always act with integrity and you will sleep well at night

The nuclear industry offers unlimited opportunities. Each individual that enters it has a world of possibilities opened up to them.

If you'd like to learn more about a career in the nuclear industry visit our website: **www.womeninnuclear.org.uk**