



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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**Name:** Suzanne Lodge

**Job title:** Deputy Director (Communities and Environment)



**Can you tell us a little about your role?**

I support the Director for Communities and Environment and the four Heads of Service in our Directorate with anything and everything to help them deliver what's needed.

**What are the key moments in your career journey so far?**

I trained as an Environmental Health Officer and started my career in Bradford near where I grew up. It was an exciting place in the late 80's and I have many stories to tell about my experiences.

I was threatened with a very large knife at one takeaway, uncovered the world's largest infestation of cockroaches in a chip shop, saw some heart breaking scenes of desperation and poverty in houses in multiple occupation and countless other things.

I moved around the country quite a bit before I had children securing promotions each time. It was accepted that you had to move to get on in local government quickly and that is still true today but to a lesser extent.

I completed an MSc in food safety whilst working full time and coming out of a long term relationship which was tough.

Just to make things really hard for myself, I did an evening course to train to be a fitness instructor as that was my passion outside work.

I came to Lancaster as a Head of Service aged 36 and I've been here since and taken on additional services through restructures and seen lots of people come and go and lots of changes over the years.

Looking back on my early career years, I'd like to think I am a much more emotionally intelligent manager who is robust but kind with a strong sense of fairness and integrity.

**Are there any particular lessons or advice that you would like to share?**

If you feel able to stand up for what is right either for yourself or others – do it.