



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Name: Kirsty Chekansky

Job title: Beyond Imagination Project Officer

Can you tell us a little about your role?

Currently I support and co-ordinate the council's participation in the Beyond Imagination Project at Lancaster University. Part of my role involves building productive relationships with individuals and teams across the city council, Lancaster University and other partnering organisations.

I also get involved in research. Prior to this, I worked in Regeneration and Planning.



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

Before joining the council I worked for the Ministry of Defence in Cyprus, North Yorkshire, Scotland and North Wales. There are too many key moments to share here, however being invited to fly with the Red Arrows was one of them (I had to turn it down as I was pregnant, and secretly quite relieved as I don't think I could have done it!). Another highlight was being fortunate enough to be selected to take part in a personal development course with the Prince's Trust.

This involved going to Whitehall, meeting other armed forces personnel from different services and together building and co-ordinating a two-week development programme in Wales for Inner-London young people who had never left the city. This programme involved many challenges like coasteering, canoeing, horse riding etc.

Being able to give these young people the opportunity to leave the city, see the countryside, seaside, talk in a safe environment made me feel very grateful as well as pushing me outside of my boundaries. I often wonder what these young people do now.

Working in the MoD meant that you never had to stay in the same role long, as there were lots of different opportunities to try. The role I felt I made the most impact in was in a Regional Rehabilitation Unit, where my main role was to co-ordinate the rehabilitation process of operational casualties.

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

If you are not aware what other services in the council do, ask. I am always learning about different areas of the council and it does help. The council have also developed many networks over the past 2 years, therefore get involved if you can. I would encourage colleagues to do what sits well with them.