

The Honorary Graduate: Suzanne Rastrick

The Orator: Vivien Gibbs

Suzanne Rastrick is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science

Suzanne qualified as an Occupational Therapist and began her career in the acute hospital sector, with subsequent specialist practice in orthotics, before moving to work in community services and primary care, where she then gained her first general management role as the Matron of a community hospital.

She was one of the first allied health professionals (AHPs) to hold a substantive Director of Nursing post and has since held these roles in both providing and commissioning organisations in the NHS. She has also been Chief Executive of a Primary Care Trust and then achieved authorisation for the third largest Clinical Commissioning Group in England, with an integral commissioning support unit.

She has a Non-Executive portfolio in the commercial and not-for-profit housing sector and sits on a number of national groups including NHS Employers Policy Board and England Centre for Practice Development National Advisory Board.

She was appointed to the role of Chief Allied Health Professions Officer (CAHPO) for NHS England in September 2014. This role has key professional leadership relationships to the Department of Health & Social Care, where she is principle advisor to the Government on AHP matters, as well as to Health Education England. She has defined leadership links to NHS Improvement and Public Health England via Deputy CAHPO posts in both of these organisations.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Suzanne Rastrick's exceptional contribution you have made to the education and development of Allied Health Professions, nationally and at UWE