



JOHN DAWSON

Director of Facilities

How long have you been with Sheffcare?

Over 11 years.

How did you get to this job?

I joined the Army at 16 and left at 54 as a Lieutenant Colonel in logistics, latterly that was partly a HR role looking after the careers of 280 officers from cradle to grave, it was hugely satisfying. You know what they want out of life and how to handle them. I enjoyed that job every day. In 2009 I took a job in Sheffield supporting the Reserve Field Hospital as Non Regular Permanent Staff. That was a 5 year contract.

I used to run to and from work and one day it was raining and I got a bus. I picked up a Metro paper and saw the Sheffcare advert for Facilities Manager. The job appealed to me, it was the balance of care and support – I knew it would mean providing a service, and the rest is history. The job evolved to Property Services Manager and then my role was made part of the Exec team in November 2022.

What do you like most about the job?

Providing a service. For me it's the only reason to be here.

What's the hardest bit of the job?

The lack of resources, constantly trying to put a quart into pint pot, we always have to cut our cloth.

What do you like doing outside work?

Watching sport, I love hill walking, travelling, I've been everywhere from New Zealand to the West coast of Canada through the army and it brought great opportunities.

What is something surprising about you or something that people wouldn't know?

My claim to uniqueness is that I was the warrant officer in charge of discipline for the British Military contingent on a ticker tape parade through Boadway after the first gulf war

What's an achievement or something that you're proud of?

My boys' achievements, my youngest boy will do ballet one day and get a distinction in all of his grades and play rugby the next day.