

I LOVE MY JOB!



Simon Corke, Aviva, Head of Learning & Development

- **Where did you go to school?** Caister High School
- **What path did you take to get to your current position?** I was due to attend college after leaving school but chose to go straight into work instead as I wanted to earn money. I joined Norwich Union and have been working ever since – which was 30 years ago!
- **What subjects did you study?** Normal GCSEs at school, no A levels but I achieved an Open University Diploma in Management whilst working at Aviva, which was very useful as had practical application in my day job.
- **How many jobs have you had, and can you name them?** Probably about 10, either in Human Resources or Learning & Development. I started as the office assistant so right at the bottom and worked my way up. I've been a Trainer, HR Consultant, Talent Consultant and HR Business Partner and now Head of Learning & Development
- **What school subjects link to your career?** English and Maths as I needed them to get my first job. I've had to learn on the job mainly, but the Diploma in Management was invaluable and I still use it now. What's the lesson? Vocational learning is good.
- **A typical day in your current role looks like:** Quite varied really although usually involve meetings with other colleagues, coaching my team, working out ways in which we can improve the capability of our workforce at Aviva.
- **What skills do you use daily, that you learnt at school?** Listening, asking questions and being curious – invaluable whatever job you have.
- **What is the number #1 piece of advice you've been given that helped you with your career choice?** Attitude is everything—be positive, work hard and believe in yourself.
- **Where do you see yourself in 5 years?** Doing a similar role to what I do now, although perhaps more independent training & coaching.
- **What is the average salary for this role?** Around £80k
- **If you could have done anything differently on your career journey, what would it be?** I would've moved into a customer facing role earlier in my career – there's no substitute for getting close to customers and what they want. It's the reason companies exist.

Why do you love your job?

Working with some great people at Aviva, the variety and autonomy I have and seeing the benefit of what we implement. It's a great company to work for!