

## *Women in Retail – Rebecca Harper’s views on what it takes and how she created her career in Retail*



**Becky joined Morrisons straight from school and her first role was as a purchase ledger clerk responsible for a large number of suppliers, ensuring they were paid in full and in line with their payment terms.**

After a couple of years in finance she moved into supply chain working across a number of high profile categories, on average managing 20-30 high profile suppliers and being responsible for short and long term forecasting, landing category range changes, forecasting for key events whilst working across teams with commercial, merchandising and depots.

Becky’s hard work and commitment to her own personal development enabled her to develop, progress and grow into a number of roles over the years and in 2014 moved to the role of supply manager for the M Local convenience business and excelled with the challenge. Leading a team of 20, Becky had responsibility for all ambient and chilled product supply chain and more recently she has been instrumental in setting up all routes to market including online, Amazon and the new M Daily forecourts offering. Becky is accountable for availability, waste and supply on time in full to all customers in online and wholesale and with her determination and drive Morrisons can now successfully supply to over a dozen wholesale sites and Wm Morrisons products can now be purchased on three Amazon platforms (Prime Now, Pantry and Fresh).

Becky role models the Morrisons ways of working and puts them into practice in her role as a leadership mentor, helping others in their own personal development and progression as well as supporting industrial placement students within her team or encouraging team members to pursue secondment opportunities for their future career development. She also prioritises her own learning by working with a buddy and mentoring through the IGD. Becky runs IGD events 3-4 times per year at Morrisons Head Office and promotes the event to encourage further learning and development in her division.

Becky delivers structure, commercial decision making and pace to her role at Morrisons but outside of work she has supported her parents going through the fostering process including help working on the computer, filling in paperwork and organising the routines they need to complete. She has also been involved in charity fundraising for the fostering organisation her parents work for TACT. Another charity event Becky has been involved with was a fire walk for Sue Ryder. In November 2015 Becky completed a fire walk which raised £2,000 for charity.

Speaking to Becky about her career and role it’s easy to see that she is confident, assertive and a strong team player which has served her well in her career.

A highlight for Becky was being nominated for the Everywoman of the Year award this year, and she says “It was completely unexpected to be honest but very flattering and an honour to be invited to such an inspiring and motivating event”. Her advice to women aspiring to be successful in this industry is “Be confident in your abilities and believe in yourself”.