

National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Allied Health Professions Apprenticeship Pathway



1. What is your name?

Lisa Huxtable

2. Where do you work?

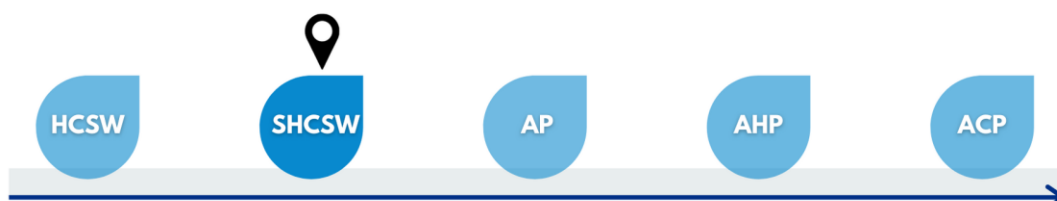
I am a Clinical Therapy Community Support Worker in the South Molton & Chulmleigh Community Health & Social Care Team at Northern Devon Healthcare Trust.

3. Which apprenticeship are you doing and what does the study involve?

I recently completed a Level 3 Apprenticeship Senior Healthcare Support Worker – Therapy Support. I have an NVQ level 2 in Health & Social Care from quite a few years ago and naturally wanted to progress to complete a level 3. The level 3 Apprenticeship consisted of 20 written units, several reflective accounts, observations in practice and oral questioning to complete the criteria for the diploma. Once the diploma had been completed the end point assessment consisted of multiple-choice questions, a 30 minute question and answer session on a reflective account (to replace the observation in practice during covid-19) and finally a 60 minute discussion with the End Point Assessor. Alongside the Apprenticeship, I was required to undertake Level 2 Maths and English Functional Skills to be able to go through the gateway to complete the End Point Assessment.

4. What does your job role involve?

My role involves working alongside Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Support Workers. Within my role I can prescribe equipment within a set budget. Working closely with the Occupational Therapist, patients individualised needs are identified and I am then able to provide equipment to enable patients to remain in their own homes, live as independently as possible and reduce the number of hospital admissions. I also work closely with the Physiotherapists who can prescribe strength and balance exercises. These exercises are carried out in the patient's home supported by me and my colleagues, this is also beneficial for the management of patients who are at falls risk, therefore, reducing hospital admissions and keeping the patients as safe as possible at home.



In supporting patients to carry out the prescribed exercise programme provided by the registered therapist, I am able to help them achieve their goals and regain their independence, therefore, the sense of achievement the patient experiences impacts on their quality of life and in turn reflects in their psychological well-being.

A very large part of my role is supporting patients and their families in difficult times. Some of the patients and families I meet require equipment and support because their relative is nearing end of life. When a patient is nearing end of life, I can provide emotional support and try to help them with their mental well-being. I can provide advice on how to use equipment if they are caring for loved ones and support carers from outside agencies with safe manual handling techniques. I am also able to signpost individuals to outside agencies for support. I work within a Multi-Disciplinary Team who come together to provide the best outcome for all of our patients.

5. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?

I wanted to develop my skills and knowledge, to be able to continue to provide high quality care to my patients. I also wanted to challenge myself and achieve my goals which included the completion of Functional Skills level 2 Maths and English.

6. What do you want to do once you qualify?

I would really love to go on to complete the new Occupational Therapist apprenticeship starting this September. To be able to gain a Degree and become a Band 5 Occupational Therapist would mean the world to me.

