

National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Mental Health Apprenticeship Pathway



1. What is your name?

Alain Rajackhan

2. Where do you work?

I work at Fountain Way Hospital in the Community Mental Health Team as a Recovery Coordinator. My role is to try to maintain the mental health and wellbeing of clients within our community in south Wiltshire.

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

I have just completed my Level 3 Senior Healthcare Support Worker apprenticeship, on the Mental Health pathway.

4. What does your job role involve?

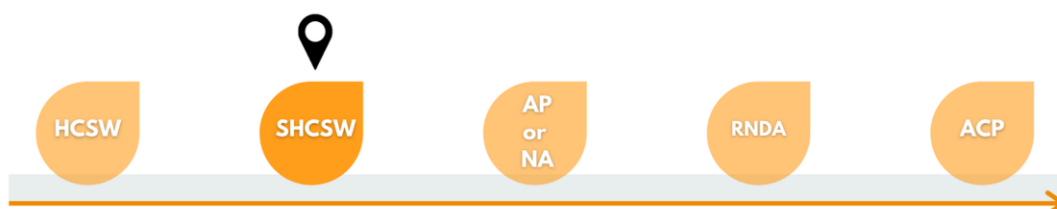
My job role involves many things, such as visiting patients at their home or care setting; I need to monitor a caseload with an average of 25 clients. I also take blood samples for patients in our community and help run weekly clinics for patients with specific medication needs. I sometimes have to deliver medication to patients at home, which sometimes leads to having to monitor their medication complaints too.

My job dynamic can change very quickly, which makes this job very interesting. It can sometimes be overwhelming, but that is part of the job and I love my job role as I find it interesting engaging with various people across different age groups.

5. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?

I am by trade a qualified cabinetmaker, but when I moved to England I joined the reserve British Army and ended up being a Tank Driver. After going through a difficult time in my life, my wife recommended that I should look at working in healthcare, as she thought this would suit me.

I started off working as agency staff at Fountain Way Hospital, but my dedication and hard work on the ward impressed the management and the manager offered me a permanent job on the ward, which I accepted as I liked the team and most importantly, I enjoyed the job I was doing.



I have come a long way since. I have moved to a different ward, been promoted and finally I moved to my current team. Throughout my journey, colleagues and doctors on the ward always advised me to do an apprenticeship, but it was not the right time then. However, I saw other Healthcare Assistants who were working with me following the apprenticeship path and who are now working as registered mental health nurses in practice and that motivated me to do my apprenticeship. I must say that I have been privileged to have the support of Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership, my employer, and all the people trusting me in the job.

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

I hope to cross the finish line and one day become a Mental Health Nurse. There is still a long road to be a qualified nurse, but my focus is even greater. My aim is to continue working in Community, but who knows where this journey will take me. For the moment I want to continue in my current role, as I feel well established and confident. I do sometimes miss woodworking, but there is always DIY and other things I could do at home! I hope that my story will motivate other future apprentices.

