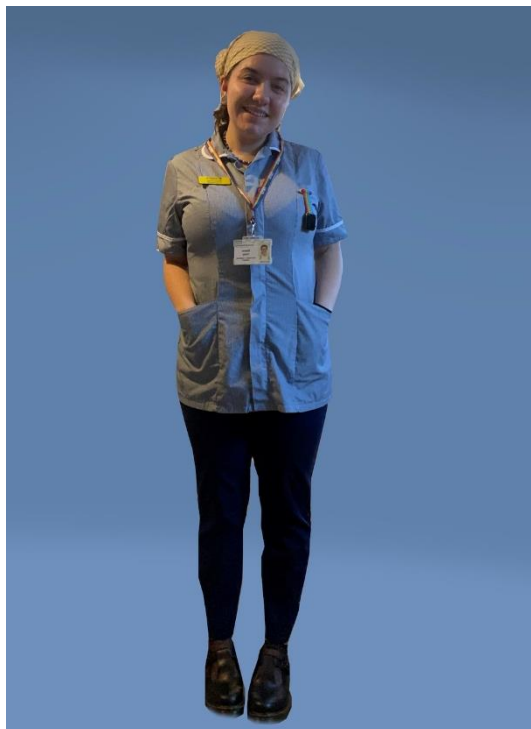


National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Mental Health Apprenticeship Pathway



1. What is your name?

Maeve Hoey

2. Where do you work?

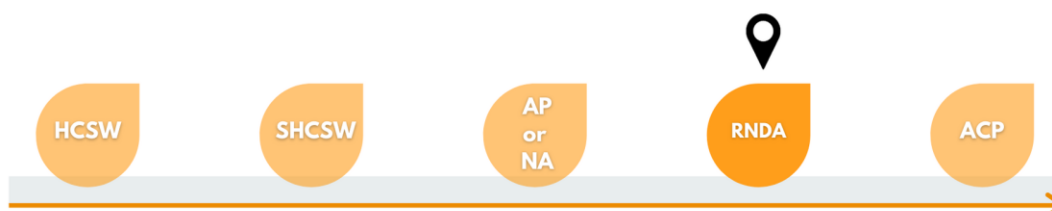
Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and I'm a Registered Nursing Degree Apprentice on the Mental Health Pathway.

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

I'm studying the Registered Nursing Degree Apprenticeship (Mental Health Pathway), so day-to-day my study involves attending zoom lectures and seminars just like any direct entry nursing student. We also go to face-to-face clinical skills days to learn vital nursing skills - for example, at the beginning of the year, we attended a clinical skills session on personal care, an aseptic non-touch technique for wound care, urinalysis and blood glucose monitoring. We also get to go on placement - I'm currently on an 8-week placement on a Dementia Inpatient Unit, which is very hands on but I'm learning a lot from the Registered Nurses and HCAs on my ward. Not only this, I'm also the Student Representative for my School of Nursing and Midwifery, so on top of my apprenticeship and studying, I attend meetings with my faculty and pass on important student feedback. I hope to inspire future degree apprenticeship students to get more involved!

4. What does your job role involve?

My job role involves both studying and clinical placement just like any other student doing a nursing degree. This month I've started my very first clinical placement on a Dementia Inpatient Unit and I'm very excited and happy to be finally out! We are expected to keep a record of our on-the-job and off-the-job hours as part of our apprenticeship, so I log when I attend lectures and seminars, and also log the hours I do while on clinical placement. While on placement, my job is to learn! I undertake assessments, physical and psychological, and help with day-to-day nursing tasks with the support of registered staff. These tasks can involve medicines management, personal care and much more! Every day is different and that's the best part about Nursing, especially Mental Health Nursing. My favourite part of my job role is to sit with patients and hear about their life stories and what they're currently experiencing – it's even better when you know you're helping them, even if it's just in a small way!



5. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?

I wanted to do an apprenticeship as I have already done a degree previously. I studied Psychology at University and didn't want to fork out for another loan. I also wanted to explore other ways of learning - I was lucky that the NHS Trust I work for were offering this apprenticeship. I'm so thankful as I probably wouldn't be able to study nursing without their support.

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

Once I qualify, I would like to continue my studies in another apprenticeship maybe – like the Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship, but I know I'd need a few years registered experience before applying for that! But if that isn't possible, I'd love to be working on a Mother and Baby Unit working with mothers who may be experiencing post-natal mental health issues, or on a forensic mental health ward – going back to my Psychology Degree roots. However, I do know throughout these few years, where I want to work may change and I'm just excited and thankful to be able to do this every day. Nursing is a rewarding career no matter where you are and if you want to do something similar, go for it and be brave!

