

# National Apprenticeship Week 2021

## Mental Health Apprenticeship Pathway



### 1. What is your name?

Clare Jones

### 2. Where do you work?

I work within the Psychology team in Penwith Integrated Community Mental Health Team, Cornwall NHS Foundation Trust.

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

I am currently studying towards the MSc Clinical Associate in Psychology Degree Apprenticeship. The course started in November 2020. So far it has been a very enriching and fulfilling course. The cohort of students on the course come from a wide variety of backgrounds. We all have a shared interest in psychology and furthering our careers within the field, but I don't think there are any two people with the same professional background – which is amazing. We have all learnt so much from each other, and the willingness to share information and support one another has been phenomenal. The study for this course is split; one day each week we receive teaching from academics at Exeter University, which is being delivered online currently due to the pandemic. We have an average of 3 clinical placement days each week, and then we have one day for self-directed study which accounts for our off-the-job learning (part of the apprenticeship requirements). There is a lot of work and a lot of standards to meet throughout the course, however both the university and my employer are very supportive and so the objectives are achievable.

### 4. What does your job role involve?

As a trainee Clinical Associate Psychologist, I work under the direct supervision of a Clinical Psychologist. I work with clients to help them understand their own experiences and to help them move on from this using evidence based interventions. I work closely with other members of the multi-disciplinary team to ensure we have a full understanding and are able to provide the best possible and most appropriate care for each individual.



## **5. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?**

Being able to complete the course as an apprenticeship is beneficial to me because of the job security post completion. I have worked in mental health for several years now and have been part of trailblazer projects, which has been exciting but has always come with a level of uncertainty. Knowing that there is a definite future for the role was a key motivator when I was applying. I also think that the course as an apprenticeship means that your employer is actively engaged in supporting you throughout your studies and has an active role in helping you to achieve the apprenticeship standards.

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

Once I've qualified, I'd love to be involved in some research with Cornwall Foundation Trust. I hope to stay within the trust and continue to work as a CAP.

