

National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Nursing Apprenticeship Pathway



1. What is your name?

Abby Oliver

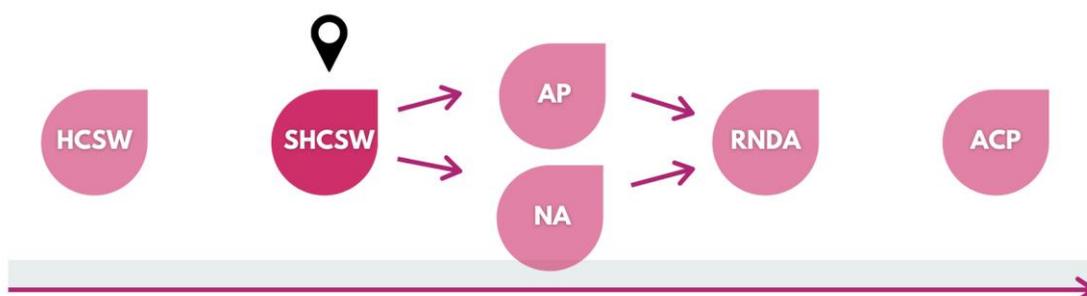
2. Where do you work?

I work on Bramble Ward at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (RD&E). The ward is a paediatric ward and I work as a healthcare assistant.

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

I am studying the Level 3 Diploma in Healthcare Support as part of the Level 3 Senior Healthcare Support Worker apprenticeship. This apprenticeship involves completing the Care Certificate, which is versatile for all healthcare roles, and completing the diploma itself. My time is split between study days and working on the ward: 20% of my time is given to allow me to focus on the study aspect of the apprenticeship which involves workbooks or essays depending on the units that you are completing. The study also involves being observed in practice by either your personal assessor or the practice educator on your ward. This includes being observed taking a patient's observations, for example, to prove you are doing it safely and correctly.

I have always wanted to work in paediatrics and therefore applied to have my placement within the apprenticeship on Bramble Ward. This means that my study is tailored more towards the care of children and young people. Personally, I love focusing on mental health and therefore chose my optional units following this interest. There are mandatory units such as Communication and Infection Control that every apprentice has to complete as they are important for all care roles, but there are optional units for you to choose depending on your area of work. There are placements on adult wards, in theatre as surgical assistants, maternity, community, outpatients and paediatrics.



4. What does your job role involve?

My job role involves assisting the registered nurses on the children's ward. This includes the menial tasks such as tidying and stocking up but it also involves lots of clinical tasks. The first thing I learnt to do within my role is to be able to take a patient's observations including blood pressure, temperature, pulse, oxygen saturations and respiration rate. As my role involves children, these observations and the method behind them change depending on the age and size of the children.

Within my apprenticeship I have also learnt to perform nasogastric tube feeding (NGT), electrocardiograms (ECG) and venepuncture (taking blood for blood tests) to name a few. My role also involves caring for babies, toddlers and young people and learning about breast feeding and bottle feeding. I also care for those with mental health problems and therefore my role goes above and beyond the physical or medical care of individuals.

5. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?

I hadn't studied any apprenticeships before but the team from the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital visited Exeter College when I was a student and it seemed like a very good idea. I was struggling at A-Level and looking for another way to enter the medical field, which is what I have always wanted to do. I have always wanted to work with children and within medicine and this apprenticeship offered me this opportunity. I knew that this apprenticeship would give me an amazing amount of experience for future endeavours and the opportunity to grow within the hospital. I always knew that the apprenticeship would be 18 months long and it gave me the chance to earn alongside learning the skills I wanted.

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

I have applied to university to study paediatric nursing to get my degree to become a registered children's nurse. This apprenticeship has given me the confidence, experience and skills to make this possible. I have received offers to study paediatric nursing beginning in September 2021.

