

National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Nursing Apprenticeship Pathway



1. What is your name?

Deborah Williams

2. Where do you work?

Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust based at Truro Health Park, Cornwall.

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

I am currently studying the BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing apprenticeship at Plymouth University. This is my first degree and as well as being my first apprenticeship. The course is a three-year full-time course with six placements within a health care setting, whether it is with the community nursing team or an acute hospital. The course is 50% theory and 50% practical which is great to get the knowledge to understand the principles and then to put them into practice.

4. What does your job role involve?

Once on placement, students are given a mentor who is on hand to supervise and help gain the experience in that particular field of nursing giving provided practice enhanced student learning. The working hours are the same of any member of staff in that team, you are expected to work several out of hours shifts but this all depends on the department working hours. So, basically I am gaining experience and getting paid at the same time.

5. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?

As an older student with a family and a home, I felt that the apprenticeship was the right pathway for my circumstances. Also having previously worked within the NHS as a dental nurse, I benefited from having an NHS pension, so this has allowed me to be an employee and still top up my pension. I feel like I'm part of a wider team and have a supportive network around me.

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

One thing that I know is that I will be the nurse that I have always wanted to be ever since I was a little girl. I have an interest in the specialist care of acutely and critically ill patients so I would love to specialise in intensive care nursing.

