

# National Apprenticeship Week 2021

## Mental Health Apprenticeship Pathway



### 1. What is your name?

Philip (Phil) Riding

### 2. Where do you work?

I am a support worker with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust.

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

I am 51 and I am presently studying for my BCs Hons LD Nursing degree apprenticeship (September 2018 Cohort). Having attained all my health and social care qualifications through adult learning schemes within the trust, I then applied for the Nursing Apprenticeship and was fortunate to be accepted.

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

I work in the Specialist Learning Disability Division Sector of Secure Services. All patients are sectioned under the MHA 2005. Since joining the NHS in 2009 I have worked in Medium Secure Services.

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

I chose the apprenticeship route primarily because it would allow me to study while maintaining the relationships I have with the service users I care for. I had previously looked into the possibility of full-time study at university but thought my age would be a barrier both in psychological and practical terms. Having spent the previous 10 years working within LD services, it just made sense to further my studies in the same field of nursing. Apart from being accepted on to the apprenticeship in the first place, my proudest moment so far has been attaining good grades at level 5, thus allowing me to progress into level 6 with more self-confidence.

For me, an apprenticeship was the only realistic way I was ever going to be able to better myself and to be given this opportunity is something I am very grateful for. We all learn and mature in our own time. I was 21 before I read my first book from front to back and now, I read books all the time. The joy of learning is only limited by our own imagination. So, if like me you feel you have more to give, then start your journey of self-discovery.

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

Once I qualify, I will continue to work in Medium Secure Services. I have experience in both Adult Male and Adult Female Services.

