

National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Allied Health Professions Apprenticeship Pathway



1. What is your name?

Jo Stinton

2. Where do you work?

Sirona Care and Health. I work full time in a community rehabilitation team as a Senior Occupational Therapist and a Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner.

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

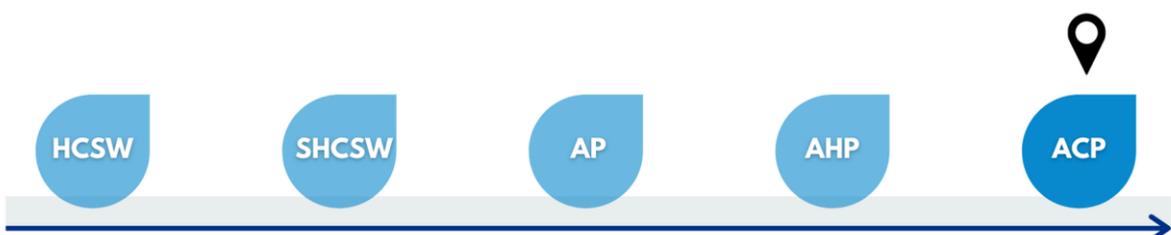
I am currently in my second year studying a level 7 Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Apprenticeship. I have a previous BSc Hons degree in Occupational Therapy.

The apprenticeship involves attending the University of the West of England to complete academic modules and action learning set days that include aspects of the four pillars of advanced practice: clinical practice, leadership and management, education/facilitating learning and research/development. I also complete 20% of the job training; gathering evidence of my competence in the four pillars of practice, working towards achieving competencies based on the multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England and evidencing this in an online portfolio.

I also have regular meetings with my mentor and university lecturer to discuss my progress and development within the four pillars of advanced practice and competency portfolio.

4. What does your job role involve?

In my current job role I am an Occupational Therapist and Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner. I assess and support patients in their own home to regain or maintain their independence after a period of acute illness or exacerbation of a long-term health condition. This involves working autonomously and as part of a wider multi professional team to facilitate discharge from hospital, providing a rapid response/admission prevention service and also a planned rehabilitation therapy service.



I have operational and leadership responsibilities within the team, contributing to the day to day running of the team, providing line management support and clinical supervision, also teaching and training.

I am also part of various working groups in my organisation focusing on quality improvement and best practice.

5. Why did you want to do an apprenticeship?

I wanted to challenge myself both clinically and academically at master's level. I wanted to do something else in addition to my current job role and extend my scope of practice and skill set at an advanced level. Advanced practice has traditionally been associated more with the nursing profession, however more recently opportunities have opened up to Allied Health Professionals to train at advanced level so doing the apprenticeship was a great way of promoting the work that AHPs can do at advanced practice level.

I am also the first Occupational Therapist in the Southwest to start the ACP apprenticeship, which is both daunting and exciting at the same time. However, it gives me the opportunity to promote the Occupational Therapy profession and demonstrate its value in advanced clinical practice.

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

The apprenticeship provides the opportunity to gain advanced level skills in the areas of clinical practice, leadership, education and research. This fits with the NHS Long Term Plan and NHS People Plan initiatives of having a more flexible workforce with an extended scope of skills to deliver high standards of patient care in innovative ways. I would like to work as an advanced clinical practitioner within rehabilitation and urgent care services, but also acting as a mentor for future cohorts of Allied Health Professionals starting their apprenticeship journey in advanced clinical practice.

