



We are introducing to you **Claire Bellezza**, a chartered manager apprentice at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

1

How did you get your
apprenticeship?

I was promoted into this newly created post and felt it would be really beneficial to undertake some further learning, which was related to the work I did. I read through the list of available apprenticeships and after some further research, I decided that this apprenticeship would be perfect to do in parallel.



2

Who is your training provider and what is the study model like?

My training provider is the Open University, which was a great match for me as I had previous experience of studying with them. Their study model is clear, I know exactly what I need to focus on and it fits around my extremely busy work schedule. My studies are primarily online including classroom tuition, which again is fantastic as I can do learning anywhere. For example, I was in North India earlier this year for a month and it did not impact my studies as I could do it online. Modules do vary and on average I do anything between 7- 15 hours per week. This is set to increase in my second year as my practice base and academic modules will cross over for five months. I also meet with my tutor on a quarterly basis at my place of work and in addition to this, my line manager gives me one study day per week.

3

What type of things have you been doing in your off-the-job learning?

Shadowing in project management, marketing, finance, emotional and social intelligence at local, regional, and national levels.

4

What has been the hardest part?

I have a very large remit which has at times impacted my study time. In addition, there are not many breaks within or between modules, so I have not had much time to reflect or catch my breath.

5

What has been the best part?

Learning new concepts and models that I can apply at work. For example, as a direct result of me applying some of the concepts learnt in the project management module, I was confident enough to apply for a new post within my organisation. I would not have done this in the past as I would have felt out of depth. However, I am so glad I did as I was offered the job and have recently started it.

6

What do you hope
to do next?

I am really looking forward to starting my second year of study and getting to grips with my new post.

7

What tips do you have for
people who want to do the same
apprenticeship as you?

This is a fantastic apprenticeship degree for anyone wishing to become a competent and confident manager. You do need to be prepared to put in the study hours! However, you will be well supported and the rewards can be far-reaching.