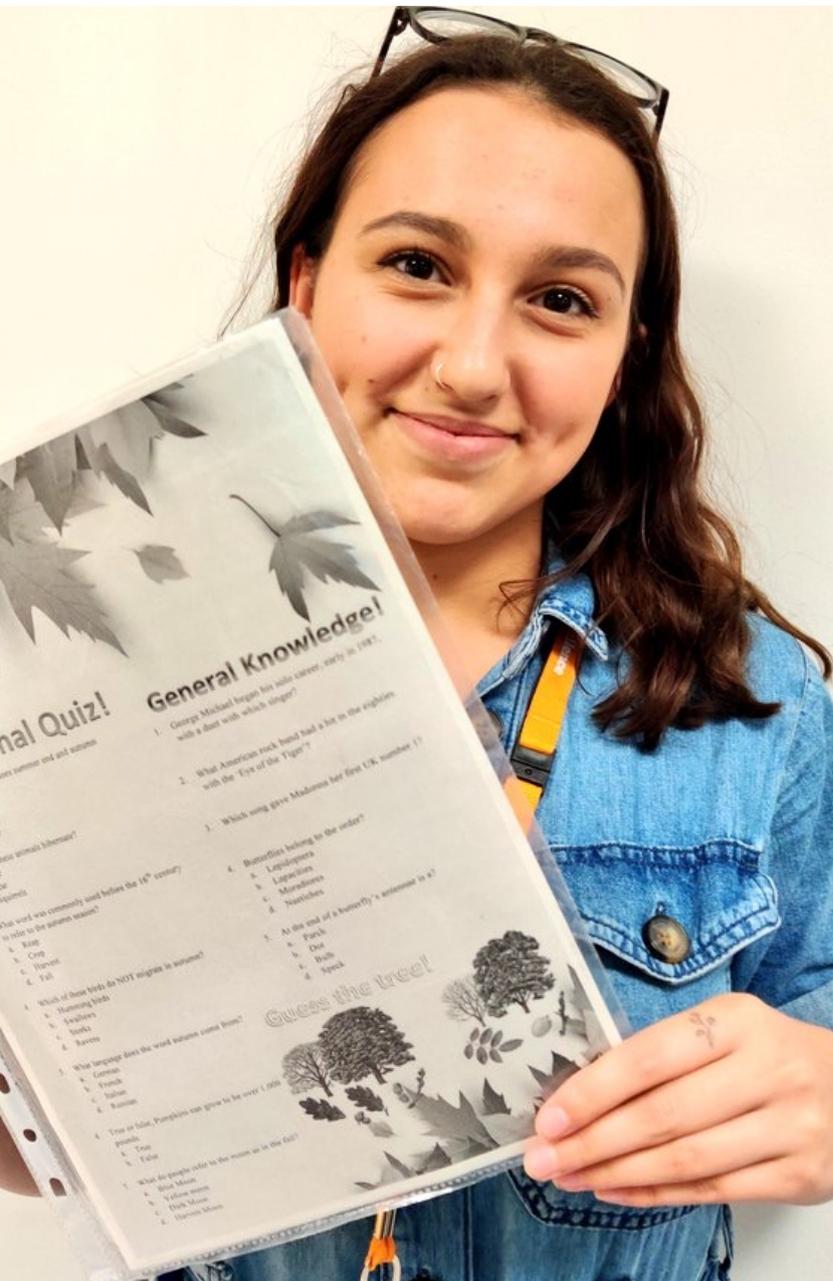


BECOMING A REGISTERED NURSE - MEET THE APPRENTICE AND THEIR MENTOR



Meet Jordan-Leigh Willis, a Level 6 Registered Nurse Degree apprentice working at Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust.

We spoke with Jordan about her journey to become a Registered Nurse Degree apprentice and with her mentor, Amy Weir about the benefits of having apprentices within their organisation.

To the left is Jordan at a quiz activity she organised for patients on the ward last year.

Keep reading to find out some other amazing things she has been doing during her apprenticeship journey.

1

Why did you want to do the Nurse Degree Apprenticeship?

I've always been interested in helping those with mental health difficulties due to helping those close to me for a majority of my life. I did medical science at college and continued to want to do mental health, volunteering for different things and continuing to help those around me. When I heard about the apprenticeship I knew I had to apply and did so and luckily I got it!

2

How have you benefitted from the Nurse Degree Apprenticeship?

I have benefitted massively from the apprenticeship, I have learnt so much about different mental health problems that people face, different medications and also things that can lead up to having these difficulties that would result in being admitted to a PICU or involved with a community team. Not only has this experience been amazing from a learning point of view but another positive from the apprenticeship would be the supportive team around me at my placement in community, my peers on the apprenticeship and most importantly the team in my home base who always encourage me and look after me and my wellbeing.

3

What have been your biggest challenges / successes?

Over the last year working predominantly in a PICU I've had many challenges and successes, this was my first job and so that was a challenge in itself. However, since starting back in September 2019 I've developed so much as a person and a student. Within the apprenticeship itself, I found the roles slightly difficult to balance at the beginning but as the apprenticeship has progressed and I have developed more in both roles I now feel confident in both. After working in PICU for 6 months I found the move to community difficult however, over time I began really enjoying shadowing members of the team I was in as well as visiting other teams and wards.

Mentor interview with Amy Weir

1

Why did your organisation decide to use the apprenticeship route for nurse?

I believe that the apprenticeship route works really well as the apprentices get a really rounded view of the job. The apprenticeship route is designed to be flexible to both the individual and the team. Jordan typically will do 2 student shifts a week, 2 mental health support worker shifts a week and one study day.

2

How has your ward/service/organisation benefitted from the apprenticeship?

Jordan was completely new to healthcare which meant that she had no pre conceived ideas about mental health and Psychiatric intensive care. As Jordan has progressed through her first year, she has learnt so much and is highly motivated. Jordan has been very flexible and sometimes if the ward is short of staff she will happily swap around her student shifts to support worker shifts in order to help the team out.

3

What have been your biggest challenges/successes in mentoring Lori?

There were initially some teething issues around finding the balance between being both a student nurse on the ward as well as being a mental health support worker. We worked through this by making sure that the wider team were aware of the different roles. Due to covid-19 Jordan was also not able to go on her placement as she would have normally which meant her placement experience was slightly more limited. However, due to the nature of PICU and the ever changing nature of the ward, she has had a variety of experiences on Haven ward.

One of the biggest successes is how well Jordan has fitted into the team and how the team have supported her. Jordan is a valued member of the team and will be a fantastic nurse in the future.