

FEATURED APPRENTICE

MELANIE LOVERING SENIOR HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER APPRENTICESHIP



Northern Devon Healthcare
NHS Trust

Meet Melanie Lovering, a Level 3 Senior Healthcare Support Worker apprentice working at North Devon District Hospital in their maternity unit.

We spoke with Melanie about her journey to become a Senior Healthcare Support Worker apprentice, keep reading to find out.

WHAT APPRENTICESHIP ARE YOU STUDYING AND WHAT DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?

I'm studying the Level 3 Apprenticeship standard for Senior Healthcare Support Worker.

I'm doing the maternity pathway which includes working in the labour ward, anti-natal and the postnatal care ward.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO DO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I left college at 17 to work in a nursing home with not many qualifications. When the nursing home closed I came to the hospital as a domestic. I found the maternity unit where I was cleaning a friendly and exciting place. I enjoyed talking to the patients about their family and labour experience. I applied for a job as a care assistant and was privileged to get a position. I never thought I would have the academic ability to be a midwife, but I am learning new skills to be able to participate more in patient care. I wanted to do an apprenticeship because I enjoy the work so much and wanted to continue in the job role while I learnt more skills. As an apprentice I can continue working in the job I love and learn new skills with the support of senior midwives and the excellent tutors teaching the course.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ROLE INVOLVE?

My job involves assisting midwives with labour care, assisting in the theatre with caesarean sections, cleaning rooms and ensuring they are ready for the next patient. I teach parents about baby care including feeding, bathing and washing babies and how to change nappies. I perform observations on patients like blood pressure and temperature and I assist patients to wash or shower after childbirth. I take blood samples from patients under the midwife's instructions, and I am qualified to perform ECGs on patients when requested by a doctor.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU QUALIFY?

I would like to continue to work on the maternity unit and be able to participate in more practical care for patients and be more knowledgeable on the skills I am performing. I want to take an active role in baby care by performing neonatal observation and testing blood sugars. I want to provide an excellent service with regards to breastfeeding and ensuring I am up to date with breastfeeding advice. I want to be able to visit patients in their own home and I want to help develop the role of the maternity support worker so the job we are doing is valued and we are all able to develop our skills further.