



MEET THE CHAIR DIETITIAN TRAILBLAZER

We spoke with Fiona Moor, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton, who is chair of the Level 6 Dietitian Apprenticeship Trailblazer group.

So, Fiona, please tell us a bit about your day job?

I am the Therapy Manager for Dietetics and Speech & language Therapy for University Hospitals of Derby and Burton. This involves managing a large team of Dietitians who work within a big teaching hospital, in a smaller district general hospital (DGH) and out in the community of Southern Derbyshire. From a speech therapy perspective, I manage a service level agreement for speech therapy services into the main acute hospital and a small team of staff within the small DGH.

Why did you step up to be chair of the Dietitian Trailblazer?

I have always had an interest in the education of our profession and because of that, I chair our professional organisations education board. The subject of apprenticeships came up and I felt this was an exciting opportunity for the profession and would help to develop the workforce through a nontraditional route. I was asked if I would chair the Trailblazer group at an initial stakeholder event, to which I agreed.

The standard has now been approved for delivery. Congratulations.

Looking back what were the challenges?

We started to develop our standard at a time when there were a number of changes coming out from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education, so we were constantly changing the way we presented our information due to changes in templates/formats etc. At times it felt like more and more information was being requested. Another challenge were the HEI's and getting them to maintain their involvement. This was all new to me and I often felt like I had the professional world on my shoulders, so I needed to get it right.

And what achievements are you most proud of?

Creating a standard, EPA and financial package which is ready for delivery, that had wide ranging involvement from potential employers, HEI's and the British Dietetic Association. I am however slightly nervous that interest will wain whilst we wait for the HEI's to create a suitable programme. There are potential applicants ready and waiting to embark on this course of study.

Do you have any tips for other Trailblazer chairs?

Make use of the expertise that is offered to you from the Institute and Skills for Health, this was invaluable to us as a group. Seek out other chairs and talk to them about the process and the pitfalls.

Appreciate that it will be hard work at the beginning but if you can see it through there is a sense of achievement at the end.

As organisations are starting to implement this standard, what challenges do you foresee?

Finding the salary for the individual who wishes to go through the apprenticeship and still being able to maintain a service to patients when they are away from the workplace.

Do you have any top tips for others considering implementing this apprenticeship?

Make sure you know what it means to have an apprentice within the department and that all other staff understand the processes. Speak with the HEI's to find out how they will be delivering the programme.



[Click here to download the Dietitian standard and end-point assessment plan.](https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/)