

FEATURED APPRENTICE

CLAIRE LUXTON HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER APPRENTICESHIP



Northern Devon Healthcare
NHS Trust

Meet Claire Luxton, a Level 2 Healthcare Support Worker apprentice working at North Devon District Hospital in their emergency surgical assessment unit.

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

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

I am currently studying the level 2 apprenticeship for healthcare support workers which is my first ever apprenticeship. This involves going to college one day a week. The course runs for 13 months and during this time I am required to complete 15 workbooks, each covering different subjects relating to my role.

We also have practical observations during this time where an assessor will come onto the ward and assess my practical skills and knowledge in the workplace. I am also studying functional skills maths in addition to this apprenticeship, this is a 12-week course with a practical exam at the end. By gaining this qualification now it will enable me to go on the Trainee Nursing Associate apprenticeship next.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ROLE INVOLVE?

My role as a support worker is to observe, monitor and report patients' conditions by taking temperatures, pulse, respirations, blood sugars and blood pressure, and ensuring all information is documented, and any concerns or changes are immediately reported to the nurse in charge.

Clear communication with patients, relatives and all members of the multidisciplinary team are essential, this includes, doctors, nurses, the occupational therapy team and consultants. I also assist with clinical duties and personal care, including infection prevention and control.

As a support worker I endeavour to make sure the patient's experience is comfortable, stress free and safe, whilst taking the time to talk to patients and make them feel comfortable in my care.

I really enjoy providing individual patient care. Having a direct influence on a person's health is very fulfilling and I love watching a patient progress and improve from admission to discharge.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO DO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I wanted to do this apprenticeship as working in care in a hospital environment was a completely new career for me. Previous to this role I worked as a supervisor in a pharmaceutical factory for 17 years, during this time I completed my diploma in business and management.

By doing this apprenticeship it enables me to learn more about my role, and develop my skills further, it also gives me the opportunity to have work experience days within other departments in the hospital which is a fantastic opportunity.

I have already completed a shadow on the Maternity ward, and I will also be completing shadow days in the Emergency department and also in main theatres.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU QUALIFY?

Once I have qualified my aim is to go on and train to be a Nursing Associate and from there progress on to do my full nursing degree to become a Registered Nurse.

For me personally as a mature student with a mortgage and bills to pay going back to full time education without a wage was not an option, however the pathway this apprenticeship gives me enables me to still work full time whilst completing my training, which is amazing.