

FEATURED APPRENTICE

CHARLOTTE COLE

REGISTERED NURSE DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP



Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

Meet Charlotte Cole, a Level 6 Registered Nurse Degree apprentice working at Torbay and South Devon Foundation Trust.

We spoke with Charlotte about his journey as a Registered Nurse apprentice, keep reading to find out more.

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

I completed the Degree Nurse apprenticeship; it was a two-year course which was a mixture of theory and practice. When not in University we were given the opportunity to go into different health care settings, where we were mentored by Registered Nurses. This gave us chance to develop our clinical skills and gain experience in different areas. It is the best feeling when you get a 'lightbulb' moment and the theory you are taught all makes sense and you understand why tasks are undertaken.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ROLE INVOLVE?

I currently work within a multi-disciplinary team, rehabilitating patients, helping patients engage in their personal activities of daily living and organising discharges. The discharges are often complex and multi-faceted. Communication is key, we have daily multi-disciplinary team meetings where we plan and discuss each patient individually to enable safe and successful discharges. This process has been further complicated by the global COVID-19 pandemic; this adds further dynamics to the process.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO DO AN APPRENTICESHIP?

The apprenticeship has given me the opportunity to fulfil my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse, I do not think I could be more grateful for this opportunity, the support from my Trust, Plymouth University and the apprenticeship team has been fantastic. I still cannot quite believe I am now a Qualified Nurse, putting on my uniform for the first time was one of the many highlights on this journey. I believe apprenticeship schemes allows people like myself who would struggle financially to reach their career goals. I would recommend this pathway to anyone looking to advance with the added security the apprenticeship brings with it.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU QUALIFY?

Once qualified I returned to Tones community Hospital to re-join the team who put me forward and supported me through this journey, I started my career in community hospitals as a Healthcare Assistant, then studied to become an Assistant Practitioner. It is amazing to look back and see how far I have come; I will be forever grateful.