

FEATURED APPRENTICE

JOANNE HARPHAM

REGISTERED NURSE APPRENTICESHIP



Meet Joanne Harpham, a Registered Nurse apprentice at Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust.

We spoke with Joanne about her journey as a Registered Nurse Degree apprentice working in Spilsby and Horncastle Community Nursing Team, keep reading to find out more.

1**Joanne, when did you start working with Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust?**

I started working for the NHS in 2009 following a 9-year career working as care assistant in the private sector in 2 privately owned care homes. I quickly established myself as a competent Band 2 and then Band 3 Health Care Support Worker (HCSW) working in an Urgent Treatment Centre gaining new knowledge and skills and extended roles and competencies.

2**Could you tell us about your apprenticeship journey?**

In 2016 I started my first apprenticeship, an NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care and completing alongside this my Level 2 City and Guilds in mathematics, GCSE level grade A to C, this was the gateway to higher education.

Having had a year of consolidating my new skills and learning I was made aware of a new role within the NHS, the Registered Nursing Associate, this role was diploma qualified and registered with a PIN and accountability working alongside a Registered General Nurse (RGN) and other multi-disciplinary teams. This role was to bridge the gap between HCSW and RGN and the trust I worked for were offering apprenticeships in this qualification. I was offered a place and in April 2018 I went to the University of Lincoln to begin my second apprenticeship, this was an amazing experience, and I passed the apprenticeship two years later and attended the fabulous graduation experience feeling very proud of my achievements.

3**Why did you want to do the Nurse Degree Apprenticeship?**

Following 11 years working in the Urgent Treatment Centre in Louth and my completion of the Nursing Associate course, I was ready for a change and a new challenge. I work for the same trust but now in the community setting, Spilsby and Horncastle Community Nursing Team, showcasing my new skills and knowledge in holistic patient centred continuing care. Three months into my new post I was offered my third apprenticeship to complete a 18 month top up from Diploma to Degree and become a Registered General Nurse and up to today and writing this I am nearly one year into the 18 month course. This is my most challenging to date and I'm giving it all I have and again full commitment.

4**How have you benefitted from the Nurse Degree Apprenticeship?**

The apprenticeship scheme has been such a positive experience for me, it has enabled me to continue to provide for my family, be a role model for my children and achieve my dreams. I thank all my mentors, practice assessors and supervisors and employers as your guidance and support has been incredible.