

Donna Walker

Level 5 Nursing Associate (NMC 2018)



Calderdale and Huddersfield
NHS Foundation Trust

Level 5 Nursing Associate (NMC 2018)

**You can access the standard
[here](#).**

Nursing Associates provide care for people of all ages and from different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. They may provide care for people who have mental, physical, cognitive and behavioural care needs. Nursing Associates may provide care for people in their own home, in the community or hospital or in any health care settings where their needs are supported and managed. They work in the context of continual change, challenging environments, different models of care delivery, shifting demographics, innovation and rapidly evolving technologies. Increasing integration of health and social care services will require nursing associates to play an active role in multidisciplinary teams.

Meet Donna Walker, a Level 5 Nursing Associate (NMC 2018) apprentice working at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust.

We spoke with Donna about her apprenticeship journey, keep reading to find out more.



1. What apprenticeship are you studying and what does the study involve?

I am currently doing the Trainee Nursing Associate apprenticeship, which is a 2-year foundation degree course. This is a full time job where you work 30 hours on the job (for me this is surgical ward) and 7.5 hours at university. Within the course you get to go on placements to different areas of nursing including Adults, Paediatric, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.

The Trainee Nursing Associate role bridges the gap between healthcare assistants and registered nurses.

2. Why did you want to do the apprenticeship?

For me I've always wanted to be a nurse but being in full time university was not an option for my family life. Doing the apprenticeship allows me to work towards my dream job while still supporting my family.

I also struggle with the academic side, being dyslexic, so the split between work based learning and academic side helps, along with having support of the staff on my ward, tutors and my cohort.

3. What is your current role?

The Trainee Nursing Associate role involves delivering hands-on person-centred care as part of a nursing team, while we are training. We do supervised medicines rounds, making sure all patient care plans are up to date. We have our own patients to look after while being supported by the nursing team.

4. How did you get into your current role?

I started my career at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust by applying and getting the role for apprentice Healthcare Assistant, which I completed after 13 months. Nurses on my ward encouraged and have supported me to go forward to do the Trainee Nursing Associate role.

5. What has been your proudest achievement on your apprenticeship to date?

My proudest achievement is getting 94% on my second university assignment. This is something I never thought I would be able to do. I am also proud of having my own patients to look after with the support of the nursing team.

6. What do you want to do once you complete your apprenticeship?

Once I complete the Trainee Nursing Associate course my goal eventually is to go on and do the next apprenticeship to become a fully registered nurse. I do feel it is important to experience the role that I have been training for, so I will stay in the Nursing Associate role for at least 6 months to gain more knowledge and experience.

7. What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?

I would say that do it, it's a 'win win' situation. You get on the job experience while learning and you also get paid while you are doing it.

8. In your apprenticeship role, how do you contribute to providing 'One Culture of Care'?

I contribute towards the "One Culture of Care" by working together as part of a multi-disciplinary team, from me supporting the newer members of the team to being supported by the nurses and sisters while always putting the patient first.

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust 'One Culture of Care'

We aim to develop an environment where people understand and respect each other's differences, a place where you can be what you want to be, a place where colleagues work hand-in-hand with one another to deliver one culture of care.

Our vision is that our teams will reflect our diverse communities and we want our colleagues to feel part of what we deliver, because people who feel valued can be themselves and bring their best self to work