

Higher Development Award

We spoke with Vicky Johnson, a Community Health Care Support Worker in District Nursing at Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare, who has completed the Higher Development Award (HDA) and Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.

How did you get into your current role?

Prior to children, I worked as a Senior Support Worker in a care home. I thoroughly enjoyed my role. After having children, I took a career break and then worked in food retail. I was constantly looking for a job that would give me a work/life balance and included supporting and caring for others.

I have worked at Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare for nearly 14 years, working as a Community Health Care Support Worker on the Night District Nursing Team, also working with the Dementia team, assisting with training and administration.

I am currently working as a Community Health Care Support worker with the District Nursing Team. Working within the trust, I have gained knowledge, clinical skills and confidence in myself and my abilities. I am fortunate that my trust has been continually guiding and encouraging my progression and development, supporting me to attend the Higher Development Awards Level 2 and 3

Why did you want to undertake the Higher Development Award?

I left school with no qualifications, and was advised to complete the Higher development Award Level 2, whilst completing my Functional Skills Level 2 in Maths and English.

The HDA enables people to gain the confidence, academic credits and functional skills they need to progress in their careers.

FUNCTIONAL
SKILLS

HIGHER
DEVELOPMENT
AWARD

NURSING
ASSOCIATE
APPRENTICESHIP

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How have you benefitted from completing the Higher Development Award?

The Higher Development Award has given me confidence in writing assignments, referencing and studying. I believe these skills will be invaluable when continuing on with my study. It has highlighted to me that I have the capabilities to achieve my aspirations of progressing within the NHS.

It has shown and taught me that there is leadership in every role

What has been your proudest achievement to date?

My proudest achievement, within the Higher Development Award, was presenting my Service Improvement Plan at the end of the course. I lack confidence in public speaking. With the support of the other students and also the amazing tutors, I felt encouraged and enjoyed showing and discussing my presentation. I also felt a sense of great achievement upon the completion of my assignments and continued positive feedback from the tutors.

What do you want to do now that you have completed the Higher Development Award?

I have recently been successful in my application for Trainee Nursing Associate Apprenticeship within my trust, with Kingston University. In undertaking this, I hope to continue to progress and develop within my role and the trust. I aspire to become a Registered General Nurse. The Higher Development Award has given me a confidence boost and has built my self-esteem. I now believe that I can achieve and have the ability to achieve my career goals.

The Higher Development Award (HDA) is a personal development programme for support workers that enables clinical and non-clinical support workers to build on their knowledge. It gives them tools to increase awareness and improve patient/service user outcomes. [Click here](#) for further information