

APPRENTICE OF THE WEEK

JOEANN FLANNIGAN
LEVEL 6 REGISTERED NURSE
- DEGREE (NMC 2018)

**Meet Joeann Flannigan,
a Registered Nurse apprentice
at Lancashire and South
Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust.**

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

I have just completed the top up apprenticeship, from Nursing Associate to Registered Learning Disability Nurse.

The study involved one day a week at university and 4 days on placement. My placements were a mix of child learning disability, adult learning disability and in-patient.

Why did you want to do the apprenticeship?

I wanted to progress in my career which would enable me to become a registered nurse.

What is your current role?

My role is a Health Facilitation Nurse within learning disabilities. We are a small group of 6, we review GP QoF (Quality and Outcomes Framework) registers. We also search for people who may have a learning disability and should be on the register to enable them to have an annual health check. We cover 196 GP practices across the whole of Lancashire and South Cumbria.



JOEANN FLANNIGAN
Health Facilitation Nurse

We also deliver training/awareness to GP practice staff around learning disabilities, annual health checks and reasonable adjustments.

We deliver workshops to groups of people with a learning disability, to raise awareness of the importance of annual health checks. This also gives them an opportunity to become familiar with equipment which will be used during their annual health check.

How did you get into your current role?

We had a guest speaker at university presenting to us, speaking all about what she had been working on during the exemplar for the Health Facilitation team and what the aims of the team would be.

I have always been passionate about equality and inclusion, ensuring people with a learning disability have the same access to healthcare as everyone else.

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

Being able to complete the degree and become a Registered Learning Disability Nurse

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

I want to make a difference in people`s health and wellbeing.

What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?

Do it, it will change not just your life, but the life of the people we support. The skills and knowledge you will gain are invaluable to provide person centred care.

I left school with no qualifications and no idea of what career path to take, the apprenticeship gave me the opportunity to change my life, even though I was 50 when I started my degree. This proves we are never too old to learn and develop.

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