

APPRENTICE OF THE WEEK

CLARE FOWLER
LEVEL 6 REGISTERED NURSE
DEGREE (NMC 2018)

Clare Fowler
Substance Misuse Nurse

We spoke to Clare Fowler recently who completed the Higher Development Award and Care Certificate initially, then went on to complete the Level 6 Registered Nurse Degree (NMC 2018) apprenticeship, keep reading to learn more.

What is your current role and how did you get into your role?

My new role is that of a Substance Misuse Nurse at Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust. I had a lot of exposure to patients that were dealing with addiction issues throughout my training and previous job role in A&E. I saw the job advertised for a band 5 nurse to work at ARCH (Addiction Recovery Community Hub) in Uxbridge and applied and was lucky enough to be successful.

What apprenticeship have you studied and what did it involve?

I studied the Level 6 Nursing Degree (NMC 2018) apprenticeship with NMC registration at Buckinghamshire New University. It was a three-year apprenticeship and entailed attending university one week every couple of months and then placements within Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. When I was not on placement or at university I was working within my usual job role as an A&E Technician.

You have completed the Higher Development Award, Care Certificate and an apprenticeship? Do you feel that this is an effective method of career progression?

I was lucky enough to complete the care certificate and the higher development award which really prepared me for university. I think this is one of the best ways to progress within health care as it allows you to gain valuable experience and knowledge along the way. I went from a clinical support worker, to A&E Technician to newly qualified nurse. It takes time but every step of the way you are learning new and valuable skills to prepare you for your nursing role.

What has been your proudest achievement?

My proudest achievement to date was gaining a First-class honour in my degree after completing a lengthy dissertation.

“

It is a challenging programme but no degree is easy and the skills you learn as a HCA are so valuable when you become a RN. You have a greater understanding of working as part of a team and it provides you with a great foundation of knowledge to build upon.

”

What has been the biggest challenge?

I think my biggest challenge so far was completing my placements and balancing assignments and work. My placements were amazing but each one came with its own set of challenges. Also integrating into my new role as a newly qualified nurse however I am being supported by the preceptorship programme at my trust which is amazing.

What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?

I would recommend the apprenticeship to anyone considering it, it has been a blessing being able to study nursing and follow my dreams whilst being immersed in a health care environment. It is a challenging programme but no degree is easy and the skills you learn as a HCA are so valuable when you become a RN. You have a greater understanding of working as part of a team and it provides you with a great foundation of knowledge to build upon.