

MID YORKSHIRE TEACHING NHS TRUST



We spoke to Shelly Theaker and Julie Herrick at Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS trust, where occupational therapist and physiotherapist apprenticeships are offered.

Sally is the Inpatient Therapy service lead and Julie is the Community therapy service lead, both lead on apprenticeships. Read on to discover their experiences of apprenticeships and also read about Melissa Foley and Liam Holdsworth who are apprentices at the trust.

Briefly describe your organisation

As Therapies we work across acute and community and the Band 5 and 6 Therapists rotate between the areas increasing their skills and knowledge. Since 2019 we have supported the apprenticeship scheme and support 14 internal staff overall and we have had 6 qualify within this time.

What benefits have apprenticeships brought to your organisation?

Apprenticeships have brought a variety of benefits:

- Wealth of knowledge and skills around a number of Clinical areas,
- Stability for the workforce,
- Retaining staff,
- Improving staff experience,
- Enabling us to do succession planning,
- Bringing up to date evidence based practice back into the teams and new models and approaches and treatment skills.

What has been your proudest achievements for your apprenticeship programmes?

The success of the programme supporting the staff to become qualified therapists which has been a long-term goal for them and without this opportunity it would never have been possible for them to achieve.

What would you say to other organisations considering employing apprentices?

Go for it!!!

Short term commitment for a long term gain.



Melissa Foley
Level 6 Occupational Therapist (Degree) apprenticeship

What has been the best part of your apprenticeship?

Having the opportunity to complete an extended scope placement in a primary school, articulating the unique role occupational therapy can play into the school environment. This placement allowed me to work autonomously as a student occupational therapist, broadening my knowledge, skills, and experiences. Whilst on placement I completed a gardening intervention with children of all ages, needs and abilities which brought so many benefits to the children and the school, giving me a sense of achievement.

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

Achieving an exceptional high first in an assignment despite balancing full time employment, family life and university.

Making a difference to children's health and mental wellbeing in the short time I was on placement.

What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?

Balancing full time employment, family life and university work is not easy but totally worth it in the end.

If the opportunity is given to complete an apprenticeship - this approach is best as you get to learn on the job.



Liam Holdsworth
Level 6 Physiotherapist (Degree)
apprenticeship

What has been the best part of your apprenticeship?

Having worked in the health and fitness industry and then more recently as a therapy assistant for the NHS I have always had been interested in the human body. As a keen learner, the opportunity to work in different areas of physiotherapy within the NHS and work in a variety of teams has been amazing.

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

There have been many achievements I am proud of throughout the apprenticeship. However, my proudest achievement would be achieving 100% on my MSK gym placement grade. This is something I really enjoy, and I know I could do this role well as a qualified physiotherapist.

What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?

Balance is key. Make sure you make time for study outside of working hours but ensure you also take time for yourself. Whether that's going to the gym or reading a book. Don't feel guilty for not spending all your time revising.