

Harry Stallwood

West London NHS Trust



Harry Stallwood is a ward administrator at West London NHS Trust. He recently completed the Higher Development Award (HDA), we spoke to Harry about his experiences.

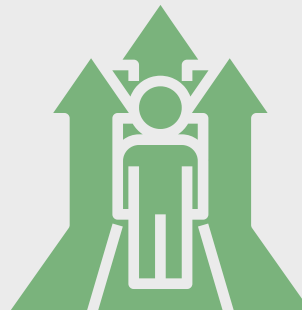
What is your current role?

I am a ward administrator. I also have a union role at the trust, I am Co-chair of the West London NHS LGBT Staff Network, a Committee Member on Unison Greater London Region LGBT+ Network as well as Liaison LGBT+ Officer to Greater London Regional Unison Health Committee.

How did you get into your current role?

I have been working for the trust for over 10 years as a temp and I am now employed directly as a member of staff in different roles.

I have worked in reception, psychotherapy and as a ward admin for the Female Acute Mental Health Ward. I have also covered all other wards within Lakeside Mental Health Unit which is an 80-bed unit.



Why did you want to undertake the Higher Development Award?

I completed the Higher Development Award in order to upskill low GCSE levels for English and Maths. The elements regarding business psychology and other elements were interesting when completing and applying for the HDA scheme.

I had an increased role in the Union as well as dealing more with senior management. I felt that I had a lack of understanding and personal development when dealing with other services and other nursing staff across the unit and trust. I wanted to increase my skills in advising senior staff to change systems and ways of working.

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I felt part of my personal development and skills were not complete or missing. I was informed by other senior staff that I personally needed to be upskilled for my future carer development.

How have you benefitted from completing the Higher Development Award?

I have increased self-confidence including when dealing with other staff and senior staff. I have learned different skills and learning styles for staff.

I have been nominated and received increased respect from other fellow workers in dealing with different aspects of work and ensuring safety on the ward.

I have received respect from other Union Members in different settings – dealing with and speaking at national conferences and working to make a difference in the workplace policies

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

I have completed the Higher Development Award. I was unsure which pathway I wanted to complete, either going to the psychology/psychotherapy route or nursing pathway. I have placed this on hold as I am changing NHS environments in relation to Mental Health Pathways in general.

I will use other skills to improve through the Union pathway work and will also have increased responsibility that is not reflected in the banding structure. I deal with more and have more understanding of other department and systems within West London NHS Trust and CNWL (Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust) who are working partners.

I will use some of the skills developed for the role in co-chairing the staff network and working with EDI for improvement for LGBT+ and other equality aspects. I am also currently undertaking a TUC Equalities Diploma.

[Learn more about the Higher Development Award](https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/)