

Western Sussex Hospitals



NHS Foundation Trust

Meet the apprentice

We are introducing to you **Kerry Good**, a Nursing Associate apprentice at Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

1

How did you get your apprenticeship?

I was a Healthcare Assistant on a Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgical ward for 5 years and wanted to become a nurse. I had a level 3 NVQ in Health and Social Care but could not afford to study, bring up children and pay my mortgage. I heard about the Nursing Associate course through my deputy sister, and while waiting for the job to reopen for the next cohort I did a bridging programme suggested for my learning and development. I was notified of a position being open by a trust manager and applied via the NHS jobs.

2

Who is your training provider and what is the study model like?

The training is provided by Brighton University in conjunction with my Trust. I work 30 hours per week learning on my base ward and attend University 1 day per week for 7.5 hours. The study model is geared up towards the proficiencies needed to meet the NMC requirements, apprenticeship requirements and my Trust's requirements to become a registered Nursing Associate.

3

What types of things have you been doing in your off-the-job learning?

I have been doing e-modules, attending courses, doing underpinning research, reflections and reading.

4

What has been the hardest part?

The hardest part for me has been balancing life, work, learning and finances.

5

What has been the best part?

I have learnt so much in the last few months since I have been on this apprenticeship. I have great support in all areas and love the fact that I keep learning every day.

6

What tips do you have for people who want to do the same apprenticeship as you?

Be organised, be committed and enjoy it. It will be hard at times but use the opportunity to its full potential to increase your learning.

7

What do you hope to do next?

I want to do my agreed year as Band 4 Registered Nursing Associate and then I would look to do Band 5 degree (hopefully again with an apprenticeship if it is on offer).