



Learning & Development Practitioner L3

Name, age, what Apprenticeship are you doing, level, and for how long?

My name is Kelly, and am completing the Learning and Development Practitioner Apprenticeship at level 3. This is due to take me approx. 18 months.

Why did you choose that specific Apprenticeship?

For me this Apprenticeship was about strengthening my knowledge within Learning and Development, to support me in being able to deliver the best possible service in my role. I had previous experience within Learning and Development prior to joining the NHS, however coming from a very different environment meant that I did not have a full picture of a Learning and Development function, and the Apprenticeship is supporting me with that.

Was there any decision between the Apprenticeship route, and any other, E.G., university etc.

For me there was not. From the day I left school at 16 I knew I wanted to get into work. I struggled with college and felt the academic route was not for me, so I left college at 17 to work full time. If I am honest I didn't think an Apprenticeship was something I would ever do, as I was nervous it would be too similar to learning like school, however I have to say that it really isn't, and I am so pleased I enrolled onto one.

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

For me it has to be working on an Apprenticeship, in a new role, in a new organisation, within one of the toughest years we will probably ever get to experience. I am about half way through my Apprenticeship at the moment, and have managed to keep on track whilst having to learn my own role. I am excited to finish and pass to gain the qualification.

What has work been like since COVID-19 outbreak, and how has your work changed because of it?

It has been tough. I was unfortunate at the start of the pandemic to be furlough from my previous role, where I spent 4 and a half months at home. I was then lucky enough to be successful with this role. It was tough coming into an environment where everything was becoming virtual, and I had to adapt to new ways of working, as well as working remotely. For me that has been difficult because I thrive on people and being physical in a room, and not being able to deliver training face to face has challenged me.

How do you see your Apprenticeship helping you to build your career for the future?

Being part of the Learning and Development function within the NHS has opened me up to the opportunities that are available to me, and I can see myself progressing within the NHS in my next role within Learning and Development. The skills and new knowledge I am learning through both practical and theory will give me the confidence to step outside of my comfort zone and strive for progression.

What would your advice be to anyone thinking about doing an Apprenticeship?

My advice to anyone thinking of doing an Apprenticeship is to get in touch and ask questions. You won't know the answer until you ask, and the likelihood is that you will be surprised with the answer. Step outside your comfort zone and learn something new, you will not regret it!