

INSPIRING STORY: HEALTHCARE APPRENTICESHIPS IN GP PRACTICES

Primary Care Services

As many people's first point of contact with the NHS, around 90% of patient interaction is with primary care services. In Yorkshire and the Humber there are circa 800 GP practices. As well as doctor and nurse provision these practices are increasing the numbers of Health Care Assistants (HCA's) they are employing. HCA's fulfil a valuable role working in General Practice and the Primary Care Team. Under the supervision of usually a practice nurse HCA's carry out a wide range of tasks as illustrated in the case study below. They also provide a valuable role in supporting people to make changes to their lifestyle and behaviour, empowering individuals to manage their own health.

Kira Rosser Apprenticeship

Kira Rosser, 19 currently works for The Kakoty Practice in Barnsley and is studying towards a Level 2 Apprenticeship in Clinical Healthcare with Barnsley College.

Kira had recently completed her A-Levels and was working part time in a local café, when she started to think about her options. As Kira wanted to work within the healthcare sector, she was attracted to the Apprenticeship programme as it allowed her to develop the skills employers were looking for.

How did you find out about the Apprenticeship?

I found the Apprenticeship on the National Apprenticeship vacancy site.

What's the best thing about being an Apprentice?

I am gaining new skills every day and expanding my knowledge, whilst learning I am gaining a qualification and I have found a job that I absolutely love doing in the process.

What has Barnsley College done well to help you in your apprenticeship?

I have support from my assessor on hand (if needed); helping me to achieve all my college assignments.



(HCA) Apprentice Health Care Assistant

Working in the Phlebotomy Clinic, Kira provides support to the Healthcare Assistants.

Kira also works in the Diabetic Clinic, where she takes blood sugar tests and checks patients feet. It also involves providing lifestyle advice, gathering new patient's information and ordering stock.

Kira said: *"My Apprenticeship has allowed me to gain qualifications and a job that I absolutely love. I have had support from my assessor to ensure I complete all of my assignments on time and to a high standard. I would recommend to anyone who is thinking about applying for an Apprenticeship to do it! All of the effort you put in definitely pays off. I'm extremely proud to be an apprentice."*

What's one piece of advice that you would give to someone considering an Apprenticeship?

Kira said: *"I would advise that in my experience the work and effort you put into the apprenticeship will pay off. You are also earning money whilst you are learning which is a great benefit to the apprenticeship scheme."*

How is your work experience at Kakoty Practice?

Kira said: *"I would like to say that as part of the Kakoty Practice, I could not have wished for better team members and my tutor's Diane and Karen have welcomed me and given me the time and effort to learn me in everything they know. I am very proud and extremely pleased with my work and effort into my apprentice role as an HCA."*

The Kakoty Practice

The Kakoty Practice - Marie Hoyle Business Manager

How did you find out about the Apprenticeship Programme?

Through being contacted by Barnsley College.

Why did you decide to employ an Apprentice?

Convinced of support from College to enable opportunities for Barnsley students.

What tasks is /are the Apprentice(s) doing on a daily basis?

Under Clinical Supervision our Apprentice is: blood sampling; taking blood pressure; urine testing; measuring and recording patients height and weight, undertaking blood sugar tests and calibration of equipment. Kira has responsibility for doing stock checks, and as well as effectively communicating with patients and the Practice team she is required to participate in team meetings and use the systemOne (GP clinical system).

What benefits has employing an Apprentice brought to the business?

Shaping a new potential employee to meet the current business need; watching an individual learn and develop; team benefit from having supervisory obligations and development of teaching skills; good example to other similar organisations; participation in improving opportunities of employment.

How flexible and responsive has Barnsley College been to your business needs? Eg Have we worked around existing shift patterns, updated you regularly on your learner's progress etc.

Very flexible, we have had excellent support from Barnsley College.

Would you want your Apprentice to progress onto a Level 3 or a Higher Level Apprenticeship if the opportunity was available?

Yes.

Would you recommend the Apprenticeship programme to a similar employer? (Please give some reasons)

Yes, and have done. For reasons listed previously as well as bringing new perspectives into the organisation.

What's one piece of advice that you would give to someone considering employing an Apprentice?

Use the support that is available within the College; be prepared to provide support to the student.

For more information contact:

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