



## Jodie Warren- Apprentice Nursing Associate

### **What were you doing for employment prior to the Student Nursing Associate Apprenticeship?**

Prior to the Student Nursing Associate Apprenticeship, I was working as a Sterile Services Technician. I would clean and sterilise scopes and instruments used on patients in various departments such as Endoscopy and Theatres. Having this job gave me my first real insight into the NHS and it inspired me to look further into other roles within the trust. This is where I came across the apprenticeship programme.

### **Which ward/department is your current base area?**

I am currently working between the Emergency Surgical Unit (ESU) and ward 21. It is such an experience to be able to work across both wards as ward 21 has helped me gain knowledge and skills in helping and providing care to patients who are admitted onto the ward. On the other hand, ESU has enabled me to assist the nurses in undertaking initial assessments of patients.

### **Why do you want to become a Nursing Associate?**

During the pandemic I became a carer for my Grandad who was isolating due to his health condition. It was the simple things that made the world of difference, for my Grandad it was making him a cup of coffee and having a conversation. Nothing was ever too much, this influenced me wanting to help more people, provide care, and be that person that patients can communicate with. That is why I initially wanted to become a Nursing Associate.



### **How have you found the course during the Covid-19 Pandemic?**

The Student Nursing Associate Apprenticeship programme has been very good during the pandemic. I have been able to receive guidance, support and advice, both at university and on the ward. However, there have been several occasions when working on the ward it is hard to explain to both patients and relatives why for the most part visitation is not allowed. A hospital stay is tough for anyone without the added extra stress of not seeing your family.

### **What skills have you developed since you have joined the SNA apprenticeship programme?**

Since joining the Student Nursing Associate Apprenticeship I have developed a variety of skills in holistic care, interpersonal skills and observations. My interpersonal skills have evolved so much since starting this course, being able to communicate with a variety of people, some of whom may have communicational difficulties. I undertake regular observations of patients' vital signs; this helps the nurses and doctors to provide personal specific care. I am trained in blood glucose and currently looking at enrolling on other training courses to further my skills.

### **Do you enjoy the academic aspect of the course and why?**

The academic aspect of the course is enjoyable as I thrive on learning new information. I must admit I was very nervous when starting university due to negative experiences at college. However, my mind set soon changed for the better. Our lecturer provides us with plenty of information both in- class and online. She is also available for one-to-one chats if you have any concerns or need help or support.

### **Why do you think the Nursing Associate role will make a difference to the NHS?**

A Nursing Associates role will make a difference to the NHS as it provides fundamental support to Healthcare Assistants and Nurses. Having a Nursing Associate will help relieve some of the pressures off healthcare assistants and nurses, which in turn can make the day on the ward run more smoothly.

### **What are your future career plans?**

Currently I have no set future career plans, I am gaining further experience, skills, knowledge and qualifications throughout the two-year course. Upon qualifying as a Nursing Associate, I think I would like to further develop my training within the role and look into progressing onto the RNDA apprenticeship with the end goal to become a Registered Nurse,