

# Looking ahead to my exciting career as a Nursing Associate



**Amy Leigh, trainee Nursing Associate at Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust talks about her motivation to become a Nursing Associate and first days on the course.**

In December last year I received the most exciting news of my career: from 30 January 2017 I would be starting in my new role as a CWP nursing associate!

I have previous care-based experience of working in children's services but as a nursing associate I'll be able to branch out into other areas, equip myself with wider experience and further my skill set.

The nursing associate role is everything I had been waiting for. It's a role I truly believe in and it really makes me feel as though I'm on the right path and progressing in my career.

Last week we spent four days at the University of Chester and one day on our CWP induction programme.

The support we have received has been overwhelming to say the least and it is truly fantastic to be working in partnership with professionals that believe in this role as much as we do. Every trainee I have had the pleasure of meeting over the last few weeks, from both CWP and other NHS Trusts across the North West, has showed so much commitment and huge motivation to making this role a success, not just for ourselves but for others that may follow in our footsteps.

My fellow CWP trainees have been so supportive and I've really enjoyed getting to know everyone. I look forward to strengthening these friendships over the next two years. We all feel so lucky to have been given this opportunity to discover parts of nursing that we may have never encountered before.

I am just about to finish the first shift of my first placement. I'm based at Oaktrees Ward at Springview Hospital on the Clatterbridge Health Park in Wirral. Oaktrees Ward is a 14-bed regional specialist inpatient unit for people with eating disorders.

I had a positive meeting with my ward manager and line manager today and already we have identified what I can learn to meet the needs of the patients. I'm thrilled to be working as part of such a skilled team and I'm keen to develop my own skills so that I can help as much as possible.

I am looking forward to catching up with my fellow trainee nursing associates at university on Wednesday and hearing how everybody's first few days on placement have gone.

Finally, I'd like to take the opportunity in this first blog to really thank everybody who has been involved in this process and for showing us so much belief. It really is an honour to be part of the first cohort of this wonderful programme.

Amy.



### **Senior Nursing Team update: Avril Devaney, Director of Nursing and Therapies**

We're really pleased to welcome all of our trainee nursing associates and delighted to see how well they have settled into their new roles. Feedback from our colleagues at the University of Chester has been very positive and I'm sure it won't be long before the group are making a key contribution to person centred care on our wards.

I am confident that the people who access our services and their families will benefit from the relationships and combination of skills and experience that the trainees will bring.

I'm also delighted to report that the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has agreed to regulate the new nursing associate role. Regulation is important as it sets standards for training and care and therefore protects the public.

We will do all that we can to support our trainees on their journey to becoming nursing associates. It is not very often that we get the chance to influence the development of such important new roles and we are fully committed to supporting the evaluation of the training and to working very closely with Health Education England to make sure that the role succeeds in making a difference to people who access our services and that future trainees benefit from our learning.

Cheshire and Wirral is one of the first 11 pilot sites across England to pioneer the new nursing associate role. Six local NHS Trusts, including CWP, are working closely with partners to support 44 trainees as part of the two-year course. [Click here for more information.](#) To find out more about opportunities at CWP please visit our 'Working for Us' pages.

Avril.