

# CASE STUDY



The Dudley Group  
NHS Foundation Trust

JOANNE DIMMOCK

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY APPRENTICE

### Tell us about your role?

I work within intermediate care and we provide inpatient rehabilitation to adults over 65. We are a stepdown unit from the hospital based in private nursing homes across the Dudley borough. I am able to provide therapy to patients for approximately 6 weeks, I carry my own caseload which allows me time to build a good rapport with the patients which in turn creates confidence and trust. I believe that having regular contact with the patients for several weeks enables them to achieve their goals and return to their chosen discharge destination as independently as possible.

### What attracted you to work at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

I first become attracted to working here many years ago when I was a patient myself attending the service, I was interested and keen to further understand the role of health professionals and the difference I can make to patients within a health setting. I am very eager to work with others and make a difference in a patient's life.

### How has training and development helped you in your role?

I have received a lot of support from the Trust and they have supported me to complete my apprenticeship, and I am currently entering my final year of a 4-year course. I received support to complete my functional skills level 2 in Maths and English which enabled me to meet the requirements of the course and was supported to complete a B-tec in occupational therapy. I now receive ongoing support and development opportunities and receive regular supervision where I can discuss treatment plans and case studies to further increase my knowledge and skills.



### What are you most proud of in your role?

I am proud of being able to work with people who are unwell following an illness or an injury and be able to assist them on their journey to recovery.

### Would you encourage others to become an AHP?

Absolutely. My allied health professional role within therapy is very broad, no two days are the same. You get to work with vulnerable people and make a difference to their lives. This is both challenging and rewarding but leads to job satisfaction knowing you have helped someone to achieve their goals.

### Anything else you would like to share?

You are never too old to learn new skills and the apprenticeship is a great course. It is not an easy route with working and studying, however you have the advantage of working within a setting where you can draw on the experience and knowledge of your colleagues.

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information on AHP careers

