



Cassandra Mottram

Greater Manchester Primary Care Trainee Nursing Associate

How did you find out about the TNA programme?

I found out about the TNA programme when I was working as a health care assistant at the hospital.

Why did you want to become a TNA/NA?

I had always wanted to study nursing but due to having family commitments I couldn't afford to be in full time education, so the TNA apprenticeship route appealed to me.

What were you doing before?

I was working as a health care assistant in secondary care and had worked on A&E, Heart Care Unit and Intensive Care. At the time there wasn't the opportunity for me to do the TNA programme in the hospital setting. I saw a vacancy for a TNA role advertised working for a primary care network, I applied and got the job. It is the best thing I ever did!

What do you like about working in primary care?

Working in primary care you get to know your patients more. You get to know the patient well including the whole family. I enjoy running my own clinics but having support when I need it.

What have been the benefits to you so far since starting the programme?

Earning a full-time wage while being able to study and develop my career.

What do you think are the benefits to your employer of this role?

They are upskilling one of their own staff members. There is a better skill mix within the team. I am contributing to the surgery meeting the QOF targets.

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Case study



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What support/care have you been providing for patients? What are the benefits to patients?

I do ECGs, flu vaccinations, blood tests, blood pressure and pulse checks, diabetic foot checks, measuring height and weight and BMI. I complete NHS health checks and diabetic checks. I will continue to develop my skills while on the TNA programme and am doing an asthma course so I can contribute to asthma reviews. I can offer patients a much better experience as I am more knowledgeable and have a better understanding of different conditions, treatments and complications. I can give health promotion advice and refer to other members of the team when needed.

What challenges have you faced?

I have not been in education for 25 years so returning to studying has been a big challenge. It has been made easier with the support of my brilliant colleagues, family, friends and peers at university.

What are your future career aspirations?

I would like to do my top up course to the RGN.

What advice would you give to anyone considering this career?

Do it, it's hard work but worth it in the end.

Thank you Cassandra!

TNA PEFS

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