

Trainee Assistant Practitioners for Mental Health Fact Sheet

The role of the Assistant Practitioner

- A trained senior clinical care support worker who competently delivers health and social care to and for people. They have a required level of knowledge and skill beyond that of the traditional healthcare assistant or support worker ([Skills for Health, 2015](#)).
- Designed to work across patient pathways and can offer additional flexibility in the delivery of new care models.
- Able to work across professional boundaries e.g. nursing, AHP, social work
- [The Assistant Practitioners in England Report \(SfH, 2015\)](#) identifies that stakeholders can clearly articulate the benefits of introducing the AP role, which include :
 - Contribution improvements in quality, productivity and efficiency
 - Able to work in a range of clinical, community and laboratory situations
 - Increasingly seen in roles that cross health and social care and professional boundaries.

Training

- Band 4 NHS Careers Framework
- Higher Apprentice model with trainees spending their time on day release to undertake 2 year foundation degree training programme
- Core and specialist modules tailored to intended area of practice.
- Care Certificate built into the degree
- Supervised practice throughout training to completion of the Programme - assessed by a trained mentor,
- Standard entry route for an AP is employment at Band 2 in their first year of training, progressing to Band 3 in year two and, on successful completion at the end of year 2, progressing to Band 4 responsibilities.

The Transformational Contribution of the Assistant Practitioner

- **Patient Care:** supporting transformation of the mental health care pathway by increasing the skill mix of the workforce
- **Widening Participation:** enabling careers of individuals employed on Agenda for Change bands 2-4.
- **Diversification of the workforce:** enabling recruitment of individuals with non-standard qualifications, including lived experience.
- **Workforce Growth & Retention:** expanding recruitment points and extending career pathways in to mental health and registered professions
- **Sustainable Work Based ‘Earning & Learning’:** the AP role is approved as a higher apprenticeship training route and funded through the Apprentice Levy

Entry Requirements

- Evidence of Level 3 Study: (UCAS Tariff Points: 72 – 80, BTEC: Merit, Pass, Pass Access to Higher Education Diploma: 72 - 80 points)
- GCSE Math's and English at grade C or FS2 (Learner can undertake Functional Skills Level 2 Math's and English whilst studying the Degree Apprenticeship).
- Fundamentals of Care Certificate (Learner can complete this within the first 6 months of the programme)
- Evidence of up to date Organisation Mandatory Training (Learner can evidence completion of this within the Apprenticeship)
- The learners should be working 23 hours/week in addition to the University day (23 hours + 7 hours at University = 30 hours equivalent contract with employer).