

Case study: New nursing associate praises nurse support

28 January, 2019

By [Gemma Mitchell](#) Senior Reporter



A newly-qualified nursing associate has commended the support she received from registered nurses during her training.

Emily Burton worked as a healthcare assistant at the Amber Care nursing home in Louth, Lincolnshire, for eight years before joining the nursing associate training scheme.

“They answered all my questions and were very supportive”

Emily Burton

While “intrigued” by the opportunity, Ms Burton said she was apprehensive when she started the course in January 2017, particularly about the academic aspect.

“When I was given essays to write I thought, ‘oh my goodness’, but it was very exciting too – especially thinking that I was one of the first people to do it,” she said.

“I also enjoyed getting to know other people with the same motivation as me,” Ms Burton added.

When Ms Burton first returned to Amber Care as a trainee nursing associate, she would frequently turn to the nurses on the team for help. “They answered all my questions and were very supportive,” she said.

As her skills developed, she said she felt increasingly valued by her nursing colleagues. “I think they felt better supported and it was great for me to provide hands-on care at a higher level than before,” she said, adding. “I very much felt part of the team.”

Ms Burton said she found the range of different placements she undertook during her training rewarding, particularly on a mental health ward.

She is one of just two trainees to qualify as a nursing associate in the field of social care from the pilot programme.

When asked if she was going to continue training to become a registered nurse in the future, Ms Burton said she had an “open mind”. “I’d like to see how this role goes now,” she said. “At the moment I just want to learn as much as I can.”

Case study: Emily's story

Emily Burton shares her experience of becoming a newly-qualified and registered nursing associate



When Emily Burton graduated as a nursing associate on 24 January, she had a twin cause for celebration.

Not only did she attend the graduation ceremony at Lincoln Cathedral that morning with her mother and boyfriend. Later she received a second award, this time from the University of Lincoln, the Lincolnshire Care Association Award, for contribution to social care. This award recognise Emily's achievement in qualifying as a nursing associate in the field of social care – just one of three trainees to do so.

"I felt proud twice over that day," Emily says.

Starting her training

Emily had been working as a health care assistant at the Amber Care nursing home in Louth, Lincolnshire, for eight years when her manager alerted her to the nursing associate training scheme.

"I was very intrigued," she says. Emily found out about the new skills she would acquire, such as dressing and wound-management, and the range of experiences the

placements would offer: "It sounded perfect."

Like other trainees, she was apprehensive when she started the course in January 2017, particularly at finding herself in a university setting.

“When I was given essays to write I thought, ‘Oh my goodness!’ But it was very exciting too – especially thinking that I was one of the first people to do it. I also enjoyed getting to know other people with the same motivation as me.”

Emily returned to Amber Care, this time as a trainee nursing associate, watching and learning alongside fully qualified nurses. She found great satisfaction in applying her new knowledge and skills “and seeing how what I learnt at university was implemented in the work-place.” She was also immensely curious, plying the nurses with queries about what they were doing. “They answered all my questions and were very supportive,” Emily says.

As her skills developed, she felt increasingly valued by her nursing colleagues. “I think they felt better supported and it was great for me to provide hands-on care at a higher level than before. I very much felt part of the team.”

Developing skills

Emily greatly enjoyed the range of placements she performed. She found working on a mental health ward especially rewarding “as it was all completely new – and I had a lot of support.” By contrast, she felt more at home on an elderly ward. “I felt I had an advantage there as I previously worked in a nursing home. It did take me some time to find out how it worked on the ward, but there too everyone was very supportive.”

As well as her university degree and social care award, Emily received further recognition for her pioneering role. She was asked to take part in the selection panel for the next trainees in social care – and she believes she will be able to empathise with the new applicants. “Since I was interviewed myself, I know how nerve-wracking it can be.”

She will be able to give further advice as she helps to mentor a new trainee nursing associate at Amber Care. “When we started on the training scheme ourselves, none of us really knew how it would work out. Now it will be nice to pass on my knowledge.”

As a newly-qualified and registered nursing associate at Amber Care, Emily is aware of her new career options. She knows the post can act as a stepping stone to becoming a fully qualified nurse. But, she says, “I have an open mind. I’d like to see how this role goes now. At the moment I just want to learn as much as I can.”