

CASE STUDY

Sophie started with Dorset HealthCare back in 2010 as the trust's first apprentice. She had completed her A-levels at college and had been offered a place at university to study psychology but decided to defer her place and see if she could kick start her career with a more hands on approach. Sophie struggled to get any job offers as lacked experience, this is when she looked into the option of becoming an apprentice. Soon after this, Sophie was offered a role as a business admin apprentice within the Learning and Development service.

Sophie finished her Level 3 Business admin apprenticeship and was offered a position within the Service. Over the last 9 years Sophie has progressed within the team and has done a variety of roles within the service. She went on to complete a further two work-based qualifications (Level 5 Business Management and Level 7 Strategic Leadership and Management diploma).

Sophie has gained a lot of experience, skills and knowledge over the past 9 years through being an apprentice, recruiting and mentoring apprentices setting up an apprentice support group for all new apprentices and now leading apprenticeship across the trust as our Apprenticeship and Educational Engagement Lead.



Sophie Downton, Learning and Development Apprentice – 2010/11

“Even though it was an initial drop in salary, it was a step in the right direction for my career and it was the best decision I have ever made!”



“I have a real passion for Apprenticeships as it was the right path for me and I am so happy to have the opportunity to support and promote apprenticeships to get managers involved”.