

# Joined Up Careers Derbyshire

## Journey into health and social care – Abi's story

### What was your first job?

*Working as a junior at a hair salon when I was 15.*

### How did you get to your current role?

*After completing a business management degree at the University of Sheffield, I was still unsure what career I wanted to pursue so decided to apply for some admin jobs. I got a job with Derbyshire County Council as a minute taker for Child Protection conferences and did this for about eight months before then moving on to join the Joined Up Careers team as an administrator. I was given lots of great opportunities within the team, such as marketing, offering pastoral support to the apprentices, supporting the coordination of the apprenticeship and helping with school engagement work. A role then became available to support the apprentices on a full-time basis – given the skills, experience and knowledge I had developed during my time as the team admin, I was successful in my application and here I am!*



### Did you move across different career paths?

*Yes, predominantly in hospitality whilst at school, university and during my gap year (I would definitely recommend a gap year if you're not quite ready or decided on your next step – I worked two jobs, earned good money and was considerably more prepared for university after the year break).*

### Did you face any challenges to get to where you are now?

*I found it difficult to know what career to pursue after university because my course was so broad and I didn't know what I wanted to do. I also found graduate schemes to be really competitive and, having not completed an industry placement at university, I wasn't standing out from other candidates. I definitely stumbled upon Joined Up Careers and I'm so glad I did – I love my job, work with a great team and am fully supported to develop.*

### What do you do now?

*I work as a Programme Support Officer for Joined Up Careers and manage our rotational health and social care apprenticeship scheme. I also co-ordinate our school engagement work, among other initiatives.*

**What is it about your job that inspires you?**

*Working alongside a great team driven by a shared goal to provide the best quality care to the residents of Derbyshire. Seeing apprentices develop into caring and competent health and social care colleagues.*

**What is positive to you about working for Joined Up Careers?**

*The team are great, supportive and innovative. Given the nature of the project, we're able to think outside the box and are encouraged to put new ideas into practice. It's also great to think we might inspire individuals to pursue a career within health and social care through the work we do.*