

Joined Up Careers Derbyshire

Journey into health and social care - Amy's story

What was your first job?

Sports coaching from the age of 16 including during my Podiatry Degree.

How did you get to your current role?

I chose the A levels that were relevant for my health care degree including biology and physical education, completed a three-year full time degree course at Salford University, obtained a role as a band five Community Podiatrist upon graduation and have worked my way up to a Senior Podiatrist over the last five-and-a-half years.

Did you move across different career paths?

No, I was quite unusual for my profession - I went straight from high school to A-levels to university to working in my podiatry role, a lot of the people that undertook my course were mature students or changing from other professions.

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

Not in particular - our trust is very supportive in providing training and mentorship throughout your career and helps to push you towards progressive roles when you are ready.

What do you do now?

I work as a senior podiatrist, I am involved in managing routine clinic and domiciliary caseloads, nail surgery clinics, diabetic foot clinic sessions where we manage diabetic foot wounds as part of a multidisciplinary team, as well as undertaking audits and assisting with other service improvement tasks.

What is it about your job that inspires you?

I love working with patients and trying to relieve their foot problems and pain as you really see what a positive impact it can make on their lives... and don't worry they tell you about it too! From removing a painful corn, surgically treating an ingrowing toenail to finally healing a chronic foot wound there are



lots of happy endings in our profession that make you feel valued and inspired to keep working.

What is positive to you about working for DCHS Podiatry?

Our Department is very forward thinking and not afraid to try out new techniques or technology which is fantastic. We have one of the leading diabetic foot teams in the country and also boast three different podiatric surgery services across the county which really makes you feel that your patients are getting great quality care.