

Joined Up Careers Derbyshire

Journey into health and social care - Aimee's story

What was your first job?

I worked for a company making test kits for diseases.

How did you get to your current role?

I applied as a mature student with a previous degree to an Undergraduate Podiatry course and spent three years doing a BSc to become a HCPC registered Podiatrist. I was surprised at how many mature students there were on the course; it was a really good mix of school leavers, people who had taken gap years and mature students. Everyone had something different to offer. As a student I had to do placements and one was with Derbyshire Community Health Services (DCHS) Podiatry Team. When I qualified, I applied and was interviewed for a band five Podiatrist role with DCHS and worked in NHS Podiatry clinics including in-growing toenail surgery. After 18 months I applied and was interviewed for a band six specialist Podiatrist post which then gave me the additional opportunity to work with the Royal Derby Hospital Multi-disciplinary Diabetic Foot Clinic Team. This means I get to work with patients with diabetic foot ulcers in collaboration with Diabetes Consultants.



Did you move across different career paths?

I moved from working for a private manufacturing company to becoming a Podiatrist in my late 20s.

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

The biggest challenge was the decision to give up a job where I was relatively well paid to go back to University for three years and then start again on an income that was below what I was previously earning – I made the right decision!

What do you do now?

I split my time between my clinical role and a band seven Team Lead Role where I have responsibilities in recruitment, day-to-day organisation of the team, supporting staff, sickness absence, patient experience, service improvement and setting the direction of the service.

What is it about your job that inspires you?

Working with patients and staff to achieve a goal, however big or small, gives me real job satisfaction. A heartfelt “thank you” is simple but inspirational.

What is positive to you about working for DCHS Podiatry?

How much the Trust has worked to consider staff wellbeing and the support I get from the team around me.