

### My 15 Months with the Team

I joined the team on the 15th January 2011 as a business admin apprentice, everyone was so welcoming and I immediately felt like I fitted in and felt like part of the team.

I was so worried before I started my apprenticeship that I would be sat in an office everyday and find it quite boring. Actually that is completely the opposite of what I've been doing. I've been so lucky that I was placed with a team that carries out so many different tasks; I've done so many things I would not normally get to do. I've been to events at schools/colleges, events across the County at Job Centres and also keep Nottingham Working at the Ice Arena.

I got the opportunity to visit the EMAS Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), observe for half a day in the control room at EMAS but the best experience has got to be when I did a 12 hour shift with an ambulance crew from Kings Mill Ambulance Station.

As I had been to college and not enjoyed it before starting my apprenticeship I was worried about the amount of work I'd have to do in order to complete my NVQ qualification. I put aside time every week to get my NVQ done and eventually finished it in November 2011 only 9 months after I started it! I now know that I would like to better myself by gaining further qualifications that will help me further my future career.

I am so much more confident speaking to members of the public and also have more confidence in myself that I can do things that I would normally tell myself I can't do! Taking Minutes at a meeting was something I thought I would never get the hang of and be able to do but after going on a course to improve this I took minutes for lots of different meetings for a number of different people in the team.

I witnessed the team go through quite a lot of changes throughout the time I was with them, team members have been and gone, job titles changed and the host organisation changed. People have taken on more work, but everyone has pulled together to get tasks completed.

There isn't a bad word to be said against the team, everyone works so hard and there is a real feeling of being part of a team. The support provided by other members of staff is unbelievable and there's always someone willing to help. I was made to feel like a valued member of staff and not just an apprentice that would be there for 15 months and then leaving.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the team and have met some fantastic people both within the team and other organisations.

Thanks for a brilliant 15 months everyone.

Phoebe Pike