



# Mental Health and Learning Disability Nursing

## West Yorkshire and Harrogate Excellence Centre *Spotlight on Success*



**Excellence Centre**

West Yorkshire and Harrogate  
Health and Care Partnership



### **Mental Health Nursing and Learning Disability Nursing**

Mental Health Nursing and Learning Disability Nursing use a holistic approach to treat individuals. It's an exciting and rewarding career, where no two days are the same. Here are two inspiring stories of people and their journey into their careers in Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.

#### **Richard is a Mental Health Nurse**

Richard first went to University to study music in hopes of becoming a music teacher, but after university he found himself working in charities helping vulnerable people and families who suffered from mental health problems. After 10 years in this career Richard found himself longing to help them in a different way. His life and work experience made him pursue a career as a Mental Health Nurse.

Richard studied to become a Mental Health Nurse at Leeds Beckett University as a mature student. He felt driven while studying due to his new found calling, but wished that he had known about the career earlier on.

Richard now works as a Registered Mental Health Nurse and enjoys the variety of his everyday work life. The thing that he likes most about his job is that it is "very rewarding" as he is helping people to recover.

He finds it "infinitely interesting" and can never see himself becoming bored of the job.

### **Michael is a Learning Disability Nurse Apprentice**

Michael started his career journey at the age of 18 when he got a job as a house keeper for a mental health hospital. The nursing staff saw real potential in Michael and told him that he "could do more", which led him to apply for a support worker role through NHS jobs and this gave him the desire to progress his career further.

He researched into Universities but due to his lack of GCSE's and A Levels, he had to look for other options. This is how he found the apprenticeship route.

He applied to become an Apprentice Learning Disability Support Worker and after completing the apprenticeship and the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care, he soon found himself moving on to become a Nursing Associate Apprentice.

Completing the Nursing Associate apprenticeship meant that Michael was able to apply for the Learning Disability Nursing Degree Apprenticeship.

He is now studying to become a Registered Learning Disability Nurse.

He may have taken a longer route into his career, but it was all worth it.

Michael says "I've gone from being a cleaner to being two years away from achieving a degree."

*"[Mental Health Nursing] is infinitely interesting. I can never see myself becoming bored of the job."*

**Richard Newman**  
Early Intervention in Psychosis Practitioner  
Aspire  
Community Links

*"I've gone from being a cleaner to being two years away from achieving a degree."*

**Michael Murdoch**  
Apprentice Learning Disability Nurse  
Leeds and York Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Are you interested in a career in Mental Health or Learning Disability Nursing?**

**Find out more about how to get into a career in Mental Health and Learning Disability Nursing through our Careers Hub**

**Go to:**  
<https://wyhec.wyhpartnership.co.uk/careers-hub>

**The hub includes information about volunteering opportunities, training opportunities and job opportunities within Mental Health and Learning Disability Nursing.**