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**Sheffield
Hallam
University**

March 2021

SHU APPRENTICESHIP NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the Police Constable and Diagnostic Radiographer Apprentices joining the Sheffield Hallam Apprenticeship community. This week's guest author is Donna, a Senior Leader Apprentice working in Family Services, so a bit of a public-sector focus this week! I hope you enjoy Donna's inspirational story below. It offers a very positive message, as many

of us are looking forward to a break and to re-energise. Her story is the last and main item in the letter.

Sam Moorwood, Head of Work Based Learning

Designated Apprenticeship Safeguarding Officer

Apprenticeship Focus - Blended Learning and support during the break

We have all made massive changes in the way we are working and for my team of coaches that has meant going on line with your Progress Reviews as the temporary norm. We will keep you informed on delivery plans. Whilst our radical shifts to increased digital learning and interaction have been accelerated, some basic skills requirements remain essential - Have you set any developmental targets for your literacy and numeracy skills to support academic or workplace performance? Our [Skills Centre](#) is there to help and our Libraries continue to be open 24/7 If you plan to visit please make sure you [book your learning space in advance](#). Remember to make the most of your library off-campus with support and advice available on this [guide](#). As an Apprentice you can register for Distance Learner status to enjoy enhanced lending permissions.

Andy Womble, Work Based Learning Manager and Coach



Shaping your Student Union – Apprentices in Focus

The Students' Union are running another round of focus groups to understand how they can best support the apprenticeship community. *What do you as an Apprentice want from your Student Union?* The virtual focus groups are happening at 6pm on the 12th, 13th and 14th of April, so you can choose a date that works with your busy schedule. As a thank you, you will receive £10 in cash. If you're interested in sharing your thoughts, [sign up now](#).

Your Work Based Project – Impact on Equality?

Your Work Based Project develops your knowledge skills and behaviours, needed for your End Point Assessment, whilst creating impact for your organisation. Our Equality Impact Assessment toolkit is about to go live in a pilot, to understand and manage the potential impact for those with [protected characteristics](#). If you want to manage the impact of your project and develop your professional behaviours, please email s.moorwood@shu.ac.uk using the heading: ***EDI for Apprenticeship Projects***.

Guest Article – Donna Taylor

I am a trained Children's Social Worker and I have always worked in frontline children's services. In 2017, I became a Service Manager. This role was both operational and strategic, leading a service area to meet the complex needs of the most vulnerable children in the City.

I was approached by my employer to explore if I would be interested in returning to study. I believe in continuous learning and development and I am committed to sharing learning with my staff, so I was keen to take advantage of the opportunity. I started the Senior Leader Apprenticeship in February 2020, never envisaging that the year ahead be one of uncertainty, challenge, and upheaval; having to navigate a pandemic, whilst pursuing a Post Graduate

Apprenticeship and Progressing to become an Assistant Director!

There is no doubt that the experience, knowledge and foundation from the Apprenticeship course has been important to securing this role and has prepared me for the enormity and breadth of the post. I learnt quickly how to apply the development from the modules into my day-to-day workplace and practices, and use the techniques, theories and methods to widen my strategic thinking as a senior leader.

The first year 'Marketing' module stood out as a timely learning experience as I prepared for the AD job interview. A successful application for the post would mean responsibility for the workforce strategy. I used the assignment to focus on *recruitment and retention* and devised a marketing campaign related to the retention of social workers. The learning was overwhelmingly relevant for the interview process and the new post. This is now an active marketing campaign currently being progressed within the service; clearly evidencing the links between the learning via the MBA and apprenticeship elements of the course with the clear positive impacts in the workplace.

So, as I embark on the next two years of learning I can reflect on the following: 2020 was a year of learning in more ways than I thought possible and it is not an easy task trying to study, work full time and start a new post all in the middle of a pandemic. Organisation, positive-thinking and preparation are all key to ensure success, so I am hoping for a productive and positive 2021.



Footnote:

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[AIIR](#) is a set of web resources developed to work alongside your apprenticeship programme, it includes: [Onboarding](#) [Succeeding in your off-the-job training](#) [Well-being and support](#) [Equality, diversity and inclusion](#) [British values and Prevent](#) [Careers information, advice and guidance](#)
