

Training and deploying mental health and learning disability nurses

There are currently four main routes to becoming a mental health and learning disability nurse:

- university nursing degree
- post-graduate nursing degree
- nurse degree apprenticeship
- nursing associate apprenticeship top up.

This infographic sets out all the different routes available for organisations to train nurses and any costs to employers.

Case studies

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

The trust offers apprenticeships to support mental health nursing supply to support traditional routes in nursing. This was part of its strategic approach to attract and recruit well-trained and competent staff into the nursing workforce as the traditional supply routes alone, were not providing the numbers of qualified staff the trust required. They adopted this 'grow your own' approach for nurse degree apprenticeships and nursing associate apprenticeships to prioritise developing its existing staff.

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

Planned placements from a university take place every year, but Devon Partnership lead the way in offering additional learning virtually. This was a result of the trust wanting to offer students good access to learning even when working from home, which supported the ways of working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read how Devon Partnership NHS Trust piloted remote virtual learning for students to enhance placement experience.

Learning disability nursing continuing professional development (CPD) award programme

A flexible programme of CPD is available for learning disability nurses through the learning disability nursing CPD award. It can be used as both a refresher course for fundamental information and a training plan for advancement to different levels of skill.

The curriculum, which is aligned to the core capabilities framework for supporting people with a learning disability, creates a qualification in specialism for nurses as a pathway for professional growth in their speciality area.