**NHFT Video Transcripts:**

**03\_OU\_NHFT\_Anthony**

**Anthony Hammond:** I didn't do too well at school and I didn't leave with too many GCSEs. I spent the best part of 20 years working in retail and a friend of mine said, "Look, you know, you're quite a caring person." "How would you like to join NHFT?" So, I found myself working with children and young people who have an array of mental health difficulties and it was while I was there that someone saw that potential in me and encouraged me to go forth with developing educationally again. Leaving school, I didn't achieve English and Maths grades high enough to be able to go to university so I realised with the help of the learning and development team that I did need to achieve English and Maths at Functional Skills Level 2. And then that's opened the door to move forward in applying for an apprenticeship with The Open University. The practical side of things it was something that I was already familiar with. But the OU is fantastic in supporting students who do struggle with theory. Since passing the degree apprenticeship it's opened the door to many other opportunities. Within the first nine months, I've got a promotion within my role and I'm now a Clinical Team Leader and I've started to mentor some of the students that are coming through the door now. But also, I've had the opportunity to share my story with ministers within the Education Department. I feel like that's really important to get that message across because I left school feeling like I had no educational opportunity to progress and develop. If I can make that difference for many other people that find themselves in that position that I was in I'll fight and do whatever I can for them.