**Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust**

**01. Overview Video**

**Laura Fuller:** We live in the most beautiful area. Lots of people move here. Lots of people retire here. So, our population is really wide and really varied. As a Trust we offer integrated care so we support people from our emergency department, all the way through to the community services and supporting people in their own homes to live their best lives. The Trust has a real commitment to supporting learning and education and developing. We know that without a well-educated, well-supported workforce we can't deliver that really high-quality patient care that we strive towards.

**Paul Armer:** The Open University have been delivering nurse education for over 20 years in partnership with employers. With Torbay and South Devon, we're aware of the challenges they were facing in terms of nursing recruitment and we looked at ways that we could adapt our programme to meet those needs. We deliver the nursing degree programme and the Trust lead on recruiting and they provide practice placement experience. As well as that, they do a very thorough induction. They put them through a clinical simulation suite which means that the student can really hit the ground running.

**Jessica Osborne:** The facilities in the Horizon Centre range from the lecture theatres where we're able to have digital presentations and there's also the amazing high-tech digital suite with simulations, even VR headsets which is quite a different way of learning.

**Paul Armer:** The Open University has an open access policy. People who have always wanted to become a nurse with the right personal qualities but don't necessarily have the A-levels or the UCAS points are able to access this programme.

**Laura Fuller:** People come into nursing because they want to support people throughout difficult and enjoyable periods of their lives and it's a real privilege to be able to do that but some people who live in this rural area may struggle with some barriers to access education. By offering that locally, with the flexibility that The Open University provides but also the placements being within the area of that footprint, allows people to complete their nursing degree successfully.

**Paul Armer:** For the Trust it means that they can recruit people who are likely to stay in the local community once they've graduated from programme.

**Millie Hamer:** It just feels like I'm giving something back especially working at the hospital where I was born and where I had my own daughter. My first job, I worked in hospitality. I became interested in nursing but I always pushed it out thinking, "It's not doable", especially being a mother. Given the flexibility of the OU, means I can be at home a lot more.

**Paul Armer:** From our conversations with Trusts, we know that they struggle to put as many apprenticeships on the programme as they would like because of financial constraints. It's a self-funded model. Students would take out a tuition fee loan. So, the financial risk to the Trust is, really, very low.

**Leanne Dart:** I'm funding the course via student loans. I think it will pay dividends in the future when I've got a career that, one, I love, one, that's more financially stable. All of those things are priceless.

**Laura Fuller:** There are so many opportunities for those learners, whether that be to specialise, to go on and become non-medical prescribers, go into education. But most of all, the opportunities are there for you to be that nurse that you always wanted to be.