

SUNBURY HEALTH CENTRE IN CONVERSATION WITH A GP

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| Name: | Dr. Jessica Fielding |
| Job Role: | GPST3 Doctor (GP Registrar, 3rd year) |

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SUNBRY HEALTH CENTRE?

I joined the Health Centre in August 2022.

WHAT TRAINING HAVE YOU COMPLETED ALREADY?

I started Medical School in 2010 and graduated with a MBChB Degree in 2015. I then completed by Foundation Training (which is the first two years of training that every UK Doctor must undergo, mostly in a hospital setting).

I was unsure what I wanted to specialise in, but was interested in surgery at this time, so spent almost three years working as a Surgical Senior House Officer in a large Teaching Hospital. During this time, I realised I wanted to be a General Practitioner in the long term, so applied to GP training. Luckily, I got the job! My GP training began in April 2020.

WHAT WAS YOURPLACEMENT BEFORE THE SUNBURY HEALTH CENTRE?

From April 2020 to August 2022, I worked in St. Peter’s Hospital as a Junior Doctor, rotating through specialities of General Medicine, Paediatrics, General Surgery, Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and finally Cardiology.

HOW LONG WILL YOUR TRAINEE POST LAST UNTIL YOU BECOME FULLY QUALIFIED?

I am due to complete my training and e a fully qualified GP in August of this year (2023). However, I have been a qualified Doctor since 2015.

The training process is complicated, and Doctors are considered ‘junior’ for a number of years after University.

WHAT DEGREE OF SUPERVISION BY A FULLY QUALIFIED GP IS APPROPRIATE – IS THIS AT THE TRAINEE’S REQUEST AND/OR GP’S DISCRETION?

I have a dedicated DP Supervisor in the Practice, but all of the Doctors are very approachable to ask for advice at any time.

I have my own Clinics, but with longer appointments than the fully qualified GPs, and an opportunity to debrief after each session.

When I started my placement at the Health Centre, I talked through every appointment and clinical decision, but as I have settled in and gained experience, I now discuss cases as I feel is necessary.

I have a half day one-on-one tutorial every week with my Supervisor, in which I am able to highlight any learning needs.

CAN A TRAINEE MODIFY/PRESCRIBE MEDICATION?

Yes. I am able to do everything a fully qualified GP can do regarding medication.

AT WHAT POINT (IF AT ALL) DO TRAINEES DECIDE TOSPECIALISE IN A PARTICULAR DISCIPLINE?

In the UK, Doctors must graduate from Medical School and complete 2 years of Foundation Training, unspecialised. After this, they are able to apply to speciality training.

Beyond this, I shall have the opportunity to peruse a special interest within General Practice, and at this point, I think this be in Minor Surgery.

CAN A TRAINEE REFER PATIENTS ONWARDS – EG: FOR SCANS, CONSULTANT, ETC?

Yes – I am able to do everything a fully qualified GP can do in terms of referrals. Although I am still a Trainee, I am a Doctor with a Licence to practice, registered with the General Medical Council.

The main difference is that I have a dedicated GP Supervisor in the Practice (and longer appointment times for now).