



## Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

*Hayley Pollitt*

As a teenager, Hayley went on a Tall Ships Voyage and she discovered a love of being at sea and so she joined the Royal Navy. She became a Seaman Specialist in the warfare branch where her job included anchoring, maintenance, upper deck work and using Morse Code. During her 11 years with the Navy she travelled extensively visiting 5 out of the 6 continents of the world and spending with 2 years serving in Antarctica.

After leaving the Navy, Hayley spent time helping her family and thinking about her next steps – initially looking into becoming a dog handler but also dreaming of training to become a paramedic.

Her time serving in the military has given Hayley transferable skills that would suit many different career paths. Working as part of a team is second nature to her and she works well under pressure and keeps calm under all circumstances - very useful for both the military and the NHS! The training that she has undertaken throughout her naval career has made her open to receiving more training and to learning new skills.

One of the benefits of moving from the forces community into the NHS world is that both are government organisations and are set up with similar structures and Hayley has found the transition moving from one to the other quite comforting. The NHS offers security – it's not going to suddenly disappear like possibly businesses in the private sector!

Currently Hayley is working remotely for the Mass Vaccinations Booking Team but is looking forward to the opportunities of other roles particularly once YDH becomes part of the Somerset NHS Foundation Trust as it is so much closer to her home.

**“I would definitely recommend SWAPs – it came at the right time for me!”**