

BENNETH ANSONG AKUAMOAH

FINANCE OFFICER, LEEDS TEACHING HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

From clinical support worker to NHS accountant

Benneth studied some accountancy at high school in Ghana and realised this was a passion of his and a career he would like to pursue in the future. When Benneth moved to Leeds he met a man in the community and told him that he wanted to pursue his education in order to become a qualified accountant. This man was studying ACCA and directed Benneth to BPP professional studies so he could enquire about studying with ACCA himself. However, when Benneth turned up he was told that this was the law building but luckily the security guard kindly directed him to BPP on Park Row where he gathered some information as to the fees and courses.

Benneth started his ACCA qualification in 2008, as he was paying the fees for himself, he started working for Leeds City Council as a caretaker at a sports hall to fund his studies. This job was through an agency and unfortunately when the credit crunch hit and the council had to make cutbacks, agency staff were the first to be made redundant.

Following this role Benneth spoke to some people who suggested he look into becoming a clinical support worker in a hospital. Having enquired about this Benneth realised that he would need some experience and joined 24/7 agency where he worked for two months at various organisations such as Autism UK. Following these two months Benneth applied for a job as a clinical support worker at Harrogate District Hospital. Whilst Benneth enjoyed the role he found the commute long, particularly as a family man. Having spent a year at Harrogate Benneth secured a role at the mental health hospital in Leeds where he worked as a clinical support worker for 8 years. During these 8 years Benneth was recognised as a good worker with lots of potential and was offered opportunities to be sponsored and study nursing, however he knew that accountancy was what he wanted to do. He had started his studies and wanted to see this through.

Just before the pandemic, Benneth did 3 months voluntary work in the finance team at Leeds and Yorkshire Partnership NHS FT to gain some experience whilst still working as a clinical support worker and continuing his studies.

In March 2022, Benneth secured a role at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in March 2022 as a Finance Officer and now only has 3 papers left to become a chartered accountant with ACCA. Benneth is really enjoying his new role where colleagues have been very supportive and welcoming. Understandably he was anxious when he first started in the finance team from a clinical role, Benneth had the finance book knowledge but that is always very different to the practicalities. However, the reception he received from the team and their willingness to help Benneth made him feel right at home. Working in this role is the highlight of his career so far, it is what Benneth has been working towards for years and really shows the hard work and determination that he has to achieve his goals.

Benneth's focus now is to learn this role well and being a valued member of the team, he has a passion for accountancy and now the practical experience to go with it. Benneth has worked in the NHS for 13 years, it is where he plans to stay for the foreseeable future.

'I drive to work full of joy in my heart. It is a dream come true, what I dreamt about many years ago has now come true. I see myself as a fulfilled person now. I remember the day they offered me the job I couldn't sleep.'

Benneth is a real inspiration and shows us all that if you work hard enough and you have the dedication and determination you can reach your career goals.

Film: Water for Elephants

Book: Recipe and cook books

Food: Big British breakfast

Tv series: football and the X factor