## Healthcare Science Week Portfolio

## **Charlotte Mehegan**

Highly Specialised Cardiac Physiologist at West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust Regional Healthcare Science Training lead for ECG and CRM – East of England

My current role within the NHS as a Highly Specialised Cardiac Physiologist involves the delivery of patient centred cardiac diagnostics and cardiac device therapy. My day-to-day role utilises the application of technology, research and clinical guidelines to provide therapeutic device care to patients with a variety of pathology. The aim of my role within cardiac rhythm management is to evaluate and optimise device therapy to improve a patient's quality of life.

My academic background includes BSc Sport and Exercise Science and MSc Clinical Exercise Physiology. My career in cardiac science started in 2017 when I joined West Suffolk NHS FT as a band 5 Trainee Cardiac Physiologist. Over the last five years I have completed in-house competencies, attended a variety of courses and conferences, and most recently obtained international accreditation as a Cardiac Device Specialist. At present I am in the process of obtaining STP Equivalence through the Academy for Healthcare Science. My trust has supported me both practically and financially to achieve my career goals thus far.

My role as Regional Healthcare Science training lead for ECG and CRM allows me to inspire the future generation of healthcare scientists in the East of England. I particularly enjoy working with my colleagues to create and deliver ECG training to HCS students from a variety of specialisms. My personal passion in this role is to open doors for prospective healthcare scientists from sports science backgrounds.

My advice to those considering a healthcare science role in the NHS is to choose a specialism you are passionate about, and to say 'yes' to every opportunity of experience and professional development that is offered to you along the way!

