

## Real-life story - Louise De Groot

After spending ten years in the RAF Louise decided it was time for a career change. She knew she had an interest in medicine but wanted a role as fulfilling as her last. She chose a career in the ambulance service and hasn't looked back.



Louise De Groot Emergency care practitioner

**Employer or university** East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**Salary range** Unknown

### How I got into the role

I joined the ambulance service after ten years in the RAF. I'd always been interested in medicine and it seemed an ideal next career.

I qualified as a technician after basic training and a year's experience on the emergency ambulance and then went on to train as a paramedic at a residential training school followed by four weeks in hospital. We rotated around departments: theatre, coronary care, maternity and A&E.

I was enjoying working as a paramedic when I heard that the role of emergency care practitioner (ECP) was coming in.

I set off on a new course of training. I started by doing a full-time, 18-week course, which gave me a certificate of higher education in emergency care practice. I followed this up with another two modules, this time done in my own time over six months. Then I started another set of modules, and am almost about to achieve my BSc honours degree in community healthcare practice.

## What I do

As ECPs we are in forefront of patient care, helping to reduce hospital admissions. I'm based at the ambulance station on weekdays where I respond to any level of 999 calls in a rapid response car, and at other times, I work at an appointment only, out-of-hours emergency service in Daventry. I see a huge range of different patients with different conditions and injuries. The beauty of the role is that I'm involved in primary care [1], acute care and emergency care.

My aim is to be the best that I can possibly be. Although I'm now a fully qualified emergency care practitioner, I'm still learning every day.

## Best bits and challenges

I was particularly interested when I heard some ECPs were going to be involved in treating people in the community. Not all paramedic work is about trauma care and I'd found that I really liked treating people in their own homes, particularly older people.?

I have the most fulfilling job you could possibly think of!

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### Links

[1] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary\\_care](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary_care)