

South West Healthcare Apprenticeship Newsletter

Welcome to the first of three newsletters to mark National Apprenticeship Week (March 14 to March 18) which will keep you informed about what is happening across the South West.

It is great to see so many activities taking place across the region to celebrate the important role apprenticeships increasingly play in the health and social care workplace.

There are many great events taking place and please do take a minute to visit the interactive [events map](#) to find out what is happening near you.

Congratulations to everyone who has been shortlisted for our Star Awards and we look forward to announcing the winners on Tuesday, 15 March. Good luck to all the finalists.

Hope you all have a great 2016 National Apprenticeship Week.



Amanda Shobrook

Wider Workforce and Apprenticeship lead in the South West
Health Education England

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An apprentice's tale

Meet Abby Morgan who scooped the award for the most inspirational healthcare apprentice in the South West at last year's apprenticeship awards held by Health Education England. Abby now works as an Assistant Communications Officer at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust



What apprenticeship did you undertake and when?

I completed a Business Administration Level 2 Apprenticeship with the Communications Department at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust in July 2015 (starting in July 2014).

What are the best things about being apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship was absolutely perfect for me, as not only are you gaining a recognised qualification, but you are also learning whilst on the job, gaining valuable experience that stands out to potential future employers.

What did your apprenticeship involve?

My apprenticeship was extremely wide-ranging and involved office duties, such as answering the telephone, scanning, but also tasks such as writing news releases, taking photographs, making videos, dealing with the media and much more.

What are you doing now?

Since completing my apprenticeship, I have been taken on full time as a permanent member of staff within the Communications Department.

How has your apprenticeship helped you in your current role?

Without undertaking an apprenticeship, I would most definitely not be where I am today. It taught me so much and I gained so many valuable skills, which continue to develop on a daily basis. Many employers now ask for experience, and an apprenticeship offers you the best of both worlds.

What would you say to people considering an apprenticeship?

I would definitely recommend apprenticeships to anyone. Previously to starting, I had tried university and I found that it wasn't for me. Gaining a qualification and experience in a department that I love, whilst getting paid for it, has definitely been the best decision for me.

How would you describe apprenticeships in one word?

Exciting!

You can read about Abby's experience and that of other apprentices and people who have undertaken apprenticeships on our [website](#).

Apprentices shine at this year's Star Awards

The Star Awards recognise the very best in education and training across the health and care sector in the South West.

They celebrate individuals, including apprentices, and teams providing healthcare or public health services for NHS patients and service users in NHS trusts, general practice, local authority, education and independent or private settings including those providing pharmacy, dental and optometry services. The winner of each award category will also receive a £500 bursary towards their continued professional development.

Find out more about the [awards](#) and see who the finalists are. The awards will be held in Taunton on 15 March and will be covered in the next apprenticeship newsletter.

What is happening near you?

Find out what apprenticeship activities are taking place near you by visiting the interactive [activity map](#) for more information.

You can also register your own events on this map as well by completing the simple [submission form](#)

Have you made your pledge yet?

The [Pledge-o-meter](#) is designed to record the commitments employers make to take on apprentices and trainees, with commitments being pledged until the end of National Apprenticeship Week 2016.

Hosted by the National Apprenticeship Service, the Pledge-o-meter has been developed by a team that includes two apprentices and encourages employers to [publicly share their new commitments](#) to taking on more apprentices and trainees.

RUH raises apprenticeship awareness

Apprenticeship flyers will be handed out around different areas of the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Trust. These will explain about apprenticeships and give some positive testimonies from colleagues and their managers about how they have benefitted from their apprenticeships.

The trust is aiming to increase awareness, encourage more managers to take on apprentices and more colleagues to consider the apprenticeship route.

North Bristol celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

North Bristol NHS Trust will be celebrating traineeships, apprenticeships and care certificates with an awards ceremony on Thursday 17 March.

The trust is also launching a new updated work experience policy and relaunching its Health Ambassador Network.

Last month the trust held an open evening, providing careers advice for staff and primary school

children from the local community. The event promoted traditional career pathways plus a big push on apprenticeships. Nearly 200 people attended and had many Facebook, Twitter and expression of gratitude for a great event.

Find out about apprenticeships in Northern Devon

At Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust there will be a stall in the main foyer of the hospital on March 15 and 17 staffed by trainers and apprentices and anyone interested in the apprenticeship scheme can be interviewed there and then.

The trust is also launching NHS Ambassadors which will be linked with Inspiring the Future. This is targeted at apprentices (existing and old) and all the staff that have knowledge to share.

Apprenticeships on the breakfast menu in Torbay and South Devon

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust is holding a breakfast seminar for its managers and an open day on 17 March at the Horizon Centre, Torbay Hospital, between 10am and 5pm. It will also have a stand at a local job centre.

Shadowing opportunity in Plymouth

At Plymouth Community Healthcare CIC apprentices are shadowing several directors over the week and the apprentices will also be blogging through the week. There is also a celebration event for apprentices and managers to attend at the end of the week.

Plymouth hospitals back National Apprenticeship Week

The Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust is holding a range of events during the week which will be supported by seven apprenticeship ambassadors.

The events the trust is taking part in include an employers' engagement dinner, school assemblies, school tours around the hospital, job swaps, an open day and an end of week celebration in the city for apprentices.

Did you know? – Key Apprenticeship facts

- There are around 28,000 apprenticeships to choose from at any one time
- Apprenticeships are available in 1,500 job roles, covering more than 170 industries
- 871,800 funded apprentices participated in an apprenticeship in the 2014 to 2015 academic year
- The majority of apprentices (90%) will stay in employment after finishing their course

Sources of info about apprenticeships

- [National Apprenticeship Week](#)
- [Apprenticeship vacancies](#)