

South West Healthcare Apprenticeship Newsletter

Welcome to the second 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.

During the week we heard many inspirational stories at our first ever Star Awards about the achievements of our apprentices working in health and social care.

In this edition we focus on some of the apprentices that were this year's winners. A big and very well deserved congratulation to you all.

There have been many outstanding events taking place across the week and we have showcased a few of them but please send us details of other events held and we will include them in our final newsletter.



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Star Awards

Congratulations to both the winners and finalists of this year's Star Awards. These awards celebrate the very best in education and training in the south west and we were delighted these attracted more than 230 nominations.



There were 11 categories including four to mark the achievements of our apprentices – Inspirational apprentice, advanced apprentice, higher apprentice and intermediate apprentice.

The winners were announced at a special celebration for all the finalists held in Taunton at the Cricket Club during National Apprenticeship Week.

Inspirational apprentice of the year

Winner – Jessica Dillon from Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust

Finalist – Alice Ward from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Higher Apprentices of the Year

Winner - Chloe Kearle from Taunton & Somerset NHS Foundation Trust



My experience as an apprentice has been fantastic. I have had many opportunities throughout my apprenticeship which has helped me develop my skills and knowledge to progress to where I am today. I have had the opportunity to work with a variety of staff at different levels, present to work experience students about my career progression, mentor another apprentice and much more. Choosing to complete the apprenticeship was definitely the best decision for my career progression which allowed me to get my 'foot in the door' within the NHS.

Winning Higher Apprentice of the Year award was overwhelming. I am grateful to everyone that has supported me throughout the past three years which has led to me being presented with this award. It is a great achievement and lovely to get recognition.

Finalist - Scott Roberts from Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

Advanced Apprentice of the Year

Winner - Catherine Cox from Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust

Finalist - Mel Robinson from South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

Finalist - Chevonne Smith from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Intermediate Apprentices of the Year

Winner Jack Mills, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Where to start... firstly being nominated for the Intermediate Apprentice of the Year was a complete shock to me as being in the top 10% of nominees is an achievement alone. I would like to thank those who nominated me as I couldn't have done it without them.

My experience as an apprentice within the NHS has been a massive eye opener. This apprenticeship exceeded my expectations and provided me with skills that will aid me in my future careers.

The support I have received throughout has been superb and I was made to feel an important member of the team right from the beginning. Winning this award was an amazing experience for me and made me feel recognised for what I have done and furthermore it will look great on my CV when I'm applying for future jobs.

I think this has been a wonderful way to celebrate the National Apprenticeship Week and I would like to say thank you to Health Education England for the brilliant awards evening.

Finalist - Sarah Jayne Hooper from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

#NAW2016 south west round up

Learning celebrated in north Bristol



A graduation ceremony was held by North Bristol NHS Trust to honour the 167 learners who had completed their apprenticeships or achieved the Care Certificate.

The event was held in the Learning & Research building at Southmead Hospital during National Apprenticeship Week and was an opportunity to celebrate the success of staff in roles as diverse as housekeeping, administration and healthcare.

Director of Operations, Kate Hannam, handed out certificates to 50 employees who had completed levels 1 to 4.

A special mention was also given to Julie Chaibi who was runner up in the Outstanding Learner category at HEE Star Awards.

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Apprenticeship Week

The Lifelong Learning Department hosted a half day for students from local schools and colleges in Years 11 and above to find out about apprenticeships at our Trust 15 March.

They had the opportunity to meet with current and past apprentices, talk with clinical staff and see “hands on” equipment from Theatres, the resuscitation team and the Plaster Room.

There was a workshop on ‘standing out from the rest’ which explained tools and techniques to improve and enhance their applications when applying to us.



The Lifelong Learning team were on hand to promote apprenticeships at the local careers event Skills fest on 11 March and 12 March. The event was supported by ambassadors who support recruitment and apprenticeships across our Trust. These included apprentices and managers of various departments.

The careers event was a chance for the local schools to bring all students from a number of years to look at potential careers, also parents and jobseekers. A lot of the students are not aware of all careers available in the NHS and the lifelong learning team are happy to promote ‘much more than doctors and nurses’. It is important for the young people to understand there are many apprenticeships within the trust including porters, IT service desk, post room, grounds, procurement and many office posts across our hospitals available for those who do not think nursing is for them.

Apprenticeship week celebrated at Plymouth Hospitals Trust

At Plymouth Hospitals Trust, National Apprenticeship week was supported by its Apprentice Ambassadors. These ambassadors are part of the multi-agency Plymouth Apprentice Network, and they volunteered their time to share their experiences and to promote apprenticeships at our local schools.

The trust launched National Apprenticeship week with the ambassadors having breakfast with the Director of Nursing, Director of People and Director of Finance, at which they talked about what it was like to be an apprentice in the NHS and how it had helped them in their careers.

During the week six local schools were invited to a fantastic opportunity to tour departments with the ambassadors. They visited areas where apprentices are working and saw the diverse range of careers available. Areas visited included administration, information technology, surgical decontamination unit (where a health care support worker apprenticeship has just been launched), laboratories and a clinical training session where they learnt about hand hygiene and catheterisation.

At the end of National Apprenticeship Week Plymouth Hospitals opened its doors to the public and young people and local schools were able to visit the hospital to find out more about what a large acute hospital looks like, and the diverse range of careers opportunities available.

Other great events held in the south west

[Great Western Hospital in Swindon celebrates #NAW2016.](#)

[Apprenticeship programme highlighted by minister.](#)

Read the stories of apprentices in [Plymouth](#) and [Northern Devon](#)

Sources of info about apprenticeships

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