

Press Release

March 2015

Worcestershire NHS helps young people 'Get Into' healthcare

Two healthcare organisations in Worcestershire hosted a Prince's Trust work experience programme for unemployed young people trying to get into work.

Throughout March, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust supported twelve people, aged 18 – 25, through a mixture of work experience on hospital wards and taught sessions.

The programme allowed the participants to receive intensive training and experience in the healthcare sector. It also provided them with the opportunity to improve their teamwork and communication skills, boost their confidence, as well as develop their interview skills and CV.

Hayley and Ashley both worked on the Acute Stroke Unit at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

Whilst working on the wards, they helped hospital staff to make beds and clean equipment, under the supervision of the nursing team.

Hayley Beddows, aged 18, said "When I heard about the programme I knew I couldn't miss out on an opportunity like this. When I was younger my sister was diagnosed with cancer and my mum suffered a stroke. I began to care for both of them when I was 13 years old.

"It's really hard to get a job these days without qualifications or experience, I don't know how I would have gained this much knowledge and experience any other way.

"Both the staff on the ward and the training team have been amazing. They've created such a friendly environment to work and learn in. It's been such a great experience.

"I'm now hoping I can work my way up to a staff nurse. I've loved every minute of this programme and would definitely recommend it to others."

Ashley Nottingham, aged 23, said "I've had some experience caring for disabled relatives and friends; this programme was a great chance for me learn more about helping other people. I've been treated just like another member of staff on the ward; everyone helps us work to the best of our strengths.

"I've learnt so much over the last few weeks. I've learnt more about how to handle responsibility and what I'm capable of doing. One of the best parts about my time here has been seeing the real difference care staff make to patients. If I can make someone smile just by bringing them a cup of tea or having a quick chat, it really makes my day.

"My goal is to become an A&E nurse one day. I really want to be on the front-line helping people out. I'm hoping to get a job as a health care assistant and work my way round different departments to get the most experience possible."

Sarah-Jane Tyrer, Health Care Assistant on the stroke ward said “These two have brought a smile to my face every day. They are so enthusiastic to learn how we care for patients. They will make fantastic health care workers one day.”

Caroline Edwards, Deputy Head of Learning and Development at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust said: “The Prince’s Trust programme gives vulnerable young people the practical and financial support needed to stabilise their lives, helping develop self-esteem and skills for work. This was a great opportunity for the Trust to make a difference to young people and the communities in which they live through joint working with the Prince’s Trust.”

Debra Robinson, Compliance Manager and OLM Lead at Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust said: “The Get Into Hospital Services programme is a great opportunity for local young people to develop their experience and skills and, ultimately, their confidence within the workplace. The experience we have had with the students has been excellent and we’ve also received very positive feedback from those members of staff who work with the students.”

Three in four young people supported by The Prince’s Trust move into work, education or training. The Prince of Wales’s charity has helped 750,000 young people since 1976 and supports over 100 more each day.