

Bradford Project SEARCH Update

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What is it?

Project SEARCH is a partnership between Bradford Teaching Hospitals, Southfield School, HFT, Bradford Council and the University of Bradford. The goal

is to provide three on-site work placements for young people with learning difficulties leading to gaining skills necessary for employment.

An 'Awarding' start to the year!

Bradford Teaching Hospitals are winners!

Congratulations to Bradford Teaching Hospitals who walked away with the award for Best Practice in Employment of Disabled People at the 'Easier Access - people can make a difference' awards, organised by Bradford and District Disabled People's Forum this month.



Lorraine Cameron, Head of Equality and Diversity and Ruth Reid, Human Resources Manager picked up the award at the event in Bradford's City Park.

"I'm absolutely thrilled that the hospitals have won this award," said Lorraine Cameron. "One of the biggest barriers to employment is the recruitment process which disadvantages people with learning difficulties. If faced with an interview against other non-disabled candidates, people with learning difficulties are much less likely to get the job. We won this award because we changed our recruitment practices to make it fairer for our Interns to get paid employment with us when the programme finishes."



Humaira is enjoying the benefits with her new job!

Humaira Mahmood, one of our interns from 2015-16, was our first graduate to be employed through these recruitment changes. She began a 4 week work trial as a housekeeper on Ward 28 at Bradford Royal Infirmary earlier this summer. After only two weeks, it was clear the role was right for her, and now she is a paid employee. Humaira says: *"The staff on Ward 28 are really nice. I clean beds, equipment and the Admissions Unit, and put linen and stock away every Tuesday and Friday. I'm really enjoying my new job. I haven't spent my first wage yet, because I am saving it up to send my family on holiday to Saudi Arabia (and maybe buy a new mobile too...!)"*

Finalists: University of Bradford

The University of Bradford, were also nominated for a similar award for their employment practices with Project SEARCH graduates. For this work, they were nominated for the CIPD Awards 2017, in London in September and were finalists in their category! Congratulations to both our partners, and thank you for your hard work in promoting and recognizing the work of our Project SEARCH Interns.

Welcome to our 2017-18 interns!

Our new interns began their induction programme on 6th September, when we welcomed 12 new faces onto the project. As well as completing mandatory training in fire safety, equality and diversity, infection control, safeguarding, information governance, and moving and handling, the group also had inductions at both the library and the gym. We've also had a visit from Shelley Bailey to introduce the interns to the "Hello My Name Is..." campaign. Now interns have completed their induction, they have all now begun their work placements in various departments throughout the hospital. This term we have interns working in admin, IT, portering, catering and grounds maintenance. Keep an eye out on our newsletter for updates about how they are getting on throughout the year!

Kieron is enjoying the outdoors



Kieron is working in the Estates team as a gardener for his first rotation, and just two weeks in he is fitting well into the team.

"I'm leaf blowing, mowing and litter picking in the gardening team. The best bit is that you work as a team. My colleagues are good - they've been there for a while so they know the grounds well and can help me. I have done some gardening before but am learning new things in my placement on Project SEARCH."

In her first rotation, Sophie has been serving refreshments to patients.

Best bit: Sophie loves serving cups of tea to the patients and talking to them and other people around on the wards.

Worst bit: Sophie least enjoys collecting all the dirty plates and scrapping the food off them.

Sophie said *"Before Project SEARCH I did health and social care at Shipley College and volunteered on the mobile trolley service at the BRI. I would like to get a job, maybe in ward hospitality or something similar."*

Sophie is settling in on the wards



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