

# Grow Your Potential

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A Bit about us..
- Apprenticeships at SSSFT
- Hannah's Apprenticeship Story
- Work Experience
- Adeola's Work Experience
- Facts and Figures

## DIARY DATES

Applications open for Aspiring Doctors' Programme	4th Jan 2017
Careers Event at Norton Canes High School	12th Jan 2017
Careers Event at Kingsmead High School	9th Feb 2017
National Apprenticeship Week	6th Mar 2017
Applications close for Aspiring Doctors' Programme	28th Apr 2017

## A Bit About us.....

Happy New Year!! Welcome to our first edition of 'Grow Your Potential' Newsletter. We are the Workforce, Planning and Assurance Team from South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT). SSSFT provides healthcare in mental health, learning disabilities and specialist children's care. The Trust covers a wide geographical area, including services in Staffordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and also provides services in prisons as far as the Isle of Wight and Liverpool.

The Workforce Planning and Assurance Team are a small, yet diverse team of four who provide a variety of services across our Trust. Our services include the Apprenticeship and Career Development Programmes, the Work Experience Programme, Workforce Information and Assurance reporting, support teams across the Trust, Workforce Planning, Workforce Structures and Service Redesign. As a team we produce step by step guides and offer advice to support senior managers and teams on how to access monthly workforce data and information and also explain the benefits of Apprentices and Work Experience to their service. This can include face to face training and over the phone



advice. We engage with all Staff groups to promote their roles as future careers, through career promotion events and work experience. We work closely with external education providers, other NHS organisations, schools and other education establishments. We attend regular career conventions to promote the NHS as a career choice and promote apprenticeships and work experience opportunities. One of our key objectives is to work closely with Careers Advisors, Schools, Parents and Pupils to show them the variety of roles that are available in our own Trust and the NHS as a whole. We want to open your eyes to what NHS career opportunities there are waiting to unfurl.

We hope you find this newsletter friendly and informative.

## Apprenticeships at SSSFT

What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are work-based training programmes available to anyone from the age of 16 to 65. They enable learners to demonstrate their competence while gaining a recognised qualification, achieved through a mix of on the job training and study, whilst at the same time earning a wage.

There are a range of apprenticeship levels that lead to different qualifications, and they typically take between one and four years to complete.

Apprenticeships bring a number of tangible benefits to NHS organisations, including creating skilled and motivated employees.

Apprentices train for a specific job, and this usually means they are committed to that role. They have made an active choice to learn within a work setting.

If you want to check out what Apprenticeships roles are available please log on to:

[www.getingofar.gov.uk](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk) or  
[www.nhsjobs.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsjobs.nhs.uk)

# My Apprenticeship at SSSFT



Hannah Fellows  
Workforce Infor-  
mation and Develop-  
ment Officer

## Hannah's Apprenticeship Story

My apprenticeship has been life changing for me. I was 18 years of age when I started, lacking in confidence and unaware of the opportunities and achievements that I would soon experience. My apprenticeship allowed me to understand my potential and brought out the person that I am today. 12 months into my apprenticeship, I successfully secured a Band 3 fixed term post within the Workforce

Planning and Assurance Team. This opportunity enhanced my knowledge, skills and confidence even further. A few months after completing my Level 3 Diploma in Business Admin, I was given the opportunity to increase my responsibility even further and develop my role into a Band 4 post. I am now working towards my Level 4 Diploma in Business Admin. I have never felt so motivated and determined to go further. I would recommend an apprenticeship to all individuals, they are a fantastic way of getting in to the NHS and working to the top.

Apprenticeships allow you to learn while you earn, which is a bonus at our age!



Hannah and CEO, Neil Carr, with Highly Commended certificate and Employer of the Year award in February 2016.



*"I thoroughly enjoyed the experience & have learnt more than I imagined. Thank you"*

*"...I feel motivated to become an Occupational Therapist"*



# Work Experience at SSSFT

Work experience placements at our Trust are wide-ranging, from clinical placements either in the community or inpatient facilities, to corporate placements in areas such as Human Resources, Finance and Facilities & Estates. It is a fantastic way to gain insight into a particular career. It can also be an invaluable way of gaining confidence and an understanding of what it is like to work and care for people in a mental health

setting. Work experience placements are offered in a variety of flexible ways; 1-2 week block placements, variable days for a set period of weeks or even specialist programmes. Work experience can help you choose the right career for you. SSSFT is always looking to the future in order for the organisation to develop and grow and ensure we have a workforce with the right skills and values.

During work experience at SSSFT you will gain an understanding of

the variety of different careers available within our Trust, help you make a decision about a future career and gain an understanding of the importance of communication and cooperation within the workplace. You will also gain experience of multidisciplinary teamwork and an understanding of its place in working in partnership with Service Users.

For more information contact:  
**Hannah.Fellows@sssft.nhs.uk**

# My Work Experience Placement



Adeola Gbakinro,  
Work Experience  
Student

My name is Adeola Gbakinro. I am 20 years of age and currently studying Biomedical Science at the University of Wolverhampton. I recently carried out a work experience placement at SSSFT. I was placed on the Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Norbury Ward in June 2016. During my placement I was able to shadow a multidisciplinary team and gain insight and knowledge

into adult mental health and the wide variety of roles available in the NHS. I would recommend a work experience placement at SSSFT as it allows you to witness the side of patient care that is not seen on a daily basis. My experience allowed me to understand the scope of healthcare and how a community team works. What I enjoyed the most was to be able to meet the patients and treat them in the same way I would treat others. I did not look to their situation at that moment to decide how

I would interact and care for them, but rather the fact that they were human beings like anyone else. My placement has influenced my career choice as it has made me consider community work as an option for the future.

# Facts and Figures

## Work Experience Figures

### Financial Year 2014 / 2015

SSSFT received 90 applications

SSSFT confirmed 74 placements (82%)

### Financial Year 2015 / 2016

SSSFT received 113 applications

SSSFT confirmed 97 placements (86%)



## Apprenticeship Figures

### Financial Year 2013 / 2014

SSSFT hosted 17 apprenticeships

### Financial Year 2014 / 2015

SSSFT hosted 56 apprenticeships

### Financial Year 2015 / 2016

SSSFT hosted 55 apprenticeships



## Aspiring Doctors' Programme

### APPLY NOW!!

SSSFT are holding a one day Work Experience Programme for students aged 14+ years who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine and/or might be considering a career in psychiatry. The event aims to inspire and inform students about psychiatry, how to pursue a career in psychiatry and gain a basic understanding of what it is like to work as a doctor in mental health. There will be the opportunity to speak to a variety of clinicians working within various different areas of

mental health and visit a mental healthcare setting. You will take part in interactive activities which aim to not only highlight the exciting challenges involved in a career in psychiatry, but also give insight and information regarding mental illness. The programme will be hosted at our Learning Centre at St. George's Hospital site in Stafford, on Thursday 22nd June 2017. Lunches and refreshments will be provided. As places are limited we will have an application deadline date of Friday 28th April 2017.

Application forms are available on our work experience website here;

<http://workexperience.sssft.nhs.uk/>

Or contact Hannah Fellows at [Hannah.Fellows@sssft.nhs.uk](mailto:Hannah.Fellows@sssft.nhs.uk)

## Did you know.....???

- ◇ We accept students from the age of 14 for work experience!
- ◇ We confirmed 19 work experience placements in June and July 2016 - Apply now for your summer placement!
- ◇ We attend career events across Staffordshire and Shropshire - Come along to see what we can offer!
- ◇ We hosted our own NHS Careers Fairs in Stafford and Shropshire in conjunction with other local NHS Trusts to promote **ALL** careers in the NHS. Over 1000 students attended. Make sure you look out for upcoming dates for next year!
- ◇ We can come to your school to help promote careers in the NHS



# Workforce Planning and Assurance Team

## Contact Details:

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## Our Next Edition! Look Out For...

- ◆ NEW!! Aspiring Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Programme  
- Including information about our AHP services, dates of our AHP event, how to apply, etc.
- ◆ NEW! Workforce Planning and Assurance Website!
- ◆ 'A Day In The Life Of' one of our apprentices
- ◆ Hear from one of our recent work experience students
  - ◆ Mental Health myth busters and facts
  - ◆ And much more...

**Our next issue will be available in April 2017**

## What would you like to know about SSSFT?

We would be really interested to hear your feedback on this newsletter. We would love to hear from you if you have any questions regarding careers at South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust or on any of the subjects discussed in this newsletter. Maybe you could suggest a subject for us to cover in our next issue.. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Email : [Hannah.Fellows@sssft.nhs.uk](mailto:Hannah.Fellows@sssft.nhs.uk)**