



A wave of opportunities



Eileen Harkin Pharmacy Apprentice My journey so far....

Before I found out about the apprenticeship scheme, I was studying my A-levels. After college had finished I realised I needed a career but, because I had little experience, I struggled to find full time work anywhere. I was directed to the apprenticeships website and found a role as a pharmacy assistant. Reading the job details in full and doing some further research of my own about what the job involved, it sounded interesting and something I would be well suited for, so I applied.

I am now two months into my apprenticeship and I am thoroughly enjoying it. All the staff here at Summerhill and Central Pharmacy are very friendly, supportive and encouraging, which has helped me to settle in easily. I have been assigned two mem-

bers of staff who mentor me and who I can go to if I have any problems, even though all the staff here are happy to help.

I have learnt so much within the little time I've been here. I now know how the whole system of prescribing medication works, how to put stock away, how to gather stock for dispensing medication and purchasing stock orders for wards. I also know where and how long to retain documents so that we can refer back to them if there are any queries.

At the end of my year's contract, I will be a qualified 'Assistant Technical Officer' and I also have the option to venture out into further career options such as becoming a student technician.

Overall, an apprenticeship within BSMHFT has definitely been worth my time. I am being paid to gain experience, train and learn all at once. In the end you get the two most important things, the qualification and the experience, that is exactly what employers want!

A 
apprenticeships