

THE HEALTH & CARE SECTOR WORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER'S ACADEMY UPDATE

Although the long, warm days of summer have now drawn to a close, there's plenty to look forward to in the Health and Care Sector Work Academy's autumn calendar, packed with fresh courses in brand new areas as well as some unusual and interesting events we can't wait to attend! Through October, we'll be starting new courses in St Neots, Crowland, Whittlesey and March, as well as launching Hampton and Parnwell for our Peterborough learners, and a brand new central Cambridge course. Events booked in include Feel the Force Day (more on p3), a Black History Month Diversity and Integration Event, Family Voice's Annual Conference and jobs fairs in Cambridge and Huntingdon, alongside our usual weekly job centre visits. Make sure to keep up to date via our website and social media pages to find out where we are day to day!

Throughout September we had the pleasure of attending numerous events including Whittlesey Festival, the TWIP jobs fair in Peterborough and Wisbech's Back to School, Back to Work jobs fair where we recruited a grand total of 39 learners from these events alone, some of whom have already enrolled on September's courses, the rest are looking forward to their course starts in October.



Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday 2nd October 5pm - 7pm** - GladCA's Black History Month Diversity and Integration Event, Salvation Army, Bourges Boulevard, Peterborough
- **Wednesday 2nd October 9.30am - 4pm** - Thomas Cook Recruitment Event, Town Hall, Peterborough
- **Friday 4th October 10am - 12pm** -
- **Saturday 5th October 11am - 6pm** - Feel The Force Day, East of England Arena, Peterborough
- **Wednesday 9th October 9:30am - 2:30pm** - Family Voice Annual Conference, The Fleet, Peterborough
- **Wednesday 9th October 10am - 2pm** - Jobs Fair, Cambridge JCP
- **Wednesday 16th October 9.30am - 2pm** - HCSWA 2019 Health and Care Employer Seminar, Peterborough Town Hall
- **Monday 28th October 2.30pm** - CAB Annual General Meeting

Upcoming Courses

- **Crowland - Tuesday 15th October**
- **Whittlesey - Wednesday 16th October**
- **Parnwell - Monday 28th October**
- **St Neots - Tuesday 29th October**
- **Hampton - Tuesday 29th October**
- **Yaxley - Date TBC**
- **Cambridge - Date TBC**
- **March - Date TBC**

Employer Focus: The Marbrook Centre

The Marbrook Centre in St Neots provides specialist residential nursing, therapy and care for those with complex and long term neurological conditions, including multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, stroke, traumatic brain injury and dementia. The newly built, bespoke centre has just won the 'Best Specialist Care Service' at the national Care Home Awards, and was praised for its care and rehabilitation outcomes achieved with patients and the families of those cared for, made possible by the multidisciplinary therapy and nursing staff who make up 'Team Marbrook'.

Kirsty Rich, Resourcing and Recruitment Specialist at Marbrook (pictured below, center), has been working closely with the Academy for the last year in what she says has been a 'successful partnership' for both Marbrook and their employees: 'We recommended two people who were completely new to the caring environment who we thought would benefit from the courses HCSWA provide – so far this has proved to be the case. It's no secret that the turnover in a care setting can be higher than other environments, but we are hopeful that giving new recruits the opportunity to learn more about the role itself prior to starting with us will give a clearer insight into the expectations of the role.'

'Doing the course was the best thing I could have ever done' – Alyssa, former learner

Kirsty has praised the Academy's involvement, saying 'Vanessa [Cave, Engagement Manager, pictured below, left] has been out to visit us, and has also sat in on part of our induction so she has a good understanding of Marbrook, the standard of care we provide and our ethos and values; this helps greatly when she refers potential candidates to us. In return, I have helped other students on their courses to prepare for interviews, and given them an insight into a care home environment.' So far, Marbrook have referred learners to us for training, recruited learners from the Academy and taken part in our Making it Real sessions.

Alyssa Markarian, Support Worker at Marbrook (pictured below, right), was recruited by Kirsty following completion of her Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care delivered by the Academy. 'Entering the world of care as a support worker was both exciting and terrifying! There is so much I had to learn and be introduced to, just thinking about all the training I needed made me overwhelmed and unprepared. Doing the course was the best thing I could have ever done. It helped shed light on what responsibilities I would have as a support worker, as well as introduce me to lots of legislation and lingo I refer to daily! I am very thankful for my tutor and fellow class mates for supporting me on my journey in becoming part of the world of care.'



The Academy would like to say a huge thank you to Kirsty and the rest of the team for their involvement in the project so far, and congratulations to Alyssa for how far she's progressed since gaining her qualification! To find out more about the fantastic work that Team Marbrook do, or to view current vacancies, visit their website: www.marbrook.co.uk

The Latest Good News...

The Health and Care Sector Work Academy is excited to be hosting its first Employer Seminar on Wednesday 16th October at Peterborough Town Hall. The event will be a great opportunity to share the recent successes of the academy while reminding employers of the various ways in which they can get involved, by referring current staff to us for training, taking part in our Making it Real sessions, or recruiting for current vacancies from our classes. Employers will also have the chance to hear from others already working with us, find out more about our apprenticeships offer, speak with current learners looking for in-sector roles, and give us their feedback and suggestions for how we can work together going forwards. To find out more about this interactive event or to book your place, please call us on 0800 310 1160 or email Wallis Weldon (Relationship Coordinator) at wweldon@citycollegepeterborough.ac.uk.



Academy graduate, Laura (pictured here, left) has had a busy time since finishing her qualification and the Academy was thrilled to learn that she has been nominated for the award of 'Care Newcomer' at the 2019 British Care Awards, East of England. After applying for roles while on the course, Laura interviewed for and was offered a role at Peterborough's Philia Lodge, a residential care home for the elderly and frail and those with dementia, where she has been for nearly a year. Philia Lodge's Registered Manager, Heidi Seldon (right) was keen to sing Laura's and the Academy's praises, and kindly agreed to be filmed for City College's Celebration of Learning event, as Laura is also nominated for 'Adult Learner of the Year' in the college's own prestigious award ceremony taking place at Peterborough Cathedral on 17th October. Fingers crossed for Laura in both awards!

Feel the Force Day is the worlds biggest (and only) TV and Film Convention designed for people with disabilities, sensory impairments or other additional needs. This year's event marks the convention's 7th year in Peterborough with the venue changing to the East of England Arena due to the increase in attendance numbers over the last few years. Big names from the world of TV and film making guest appearances this year include American actor Nicholas Brendon (Buffy the Vampire Slayer), as well as British actresses Amanda Barrie, Sherrie Hewson and Sheila Reid!

The Health and Care Sector Work Academy are very excited to be attending and recruiting for our upcoming courses in Peterborough and the surrounding area. Find us in the trader hall from 11am to 6pm for a chat about our courses (and your day at the convention!).



Academy Recap: What's It All About?

The Health and Care Sector Work Academy is an innovation pilot project set up to address the skills shortage within the health and care sector, by working to increase career progression prospects for employees and promote retention for employers, all the while changing the perception of the sector as a whole. We deliver a free City and Guilds qualification: the Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care, and teach the theory behind the care certificate across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to eligible learners (those in receipt of a benefit), looking to take the first step on the career ladder in health and care. Our courses are 15-20 weeks long (though hours of learning can be split to suit business needs for employers wishing to refer current staff) and are delivered locally, in small groups with a person centered approach.

What Can We Offer Learners?

- A FREE, recognised qualification
- One to one support from a mentor throughout the course and for up to four months after completing the qualification
- An excellent opportunity to meet and speak with local employers
- Assistance with CV writing, job searching and job applications
- Financial assistance with child/adult care on course days
- Travel costs to and from sessions covered
- Bespoke courses, delivered locally to you, in groups of up to twelve, with the option of Maths and English support if needed

What Can We Offer Employers?

- Support with the recruitment of Level 1 qualified employees with an understanding of the theory behind the care certificate
- Refer current staff into us for upskilling through recognised Level 1 and above qualifications as well as apprenticeship opportunities
- The opportunity to get involved in 'Making it Real'; host mock interviews, Q&A sessions and more
- Bespoke training courses responsive to your organisational needs, identified through training needs analysis

Get in Touch



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