

THE HEALTH & CARE SECTOR WORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER'S ACADEMY UPDATE

Summer has been incredibly busy for the Academy and has seen our recruitment team out and about across the county, signing up new learners in Peterborough, Huntingdon and Cambridge via weekly job centre visits, group talks, promotional stands in various locations and weekend events such as local festivals and family fun days. We've also enjoyed branching out into Spalding, an area we've been developing over the summer with stands at the town market, Springfields and Morrisons - watch this space for courses launching in the autumn!

August's enrolments saw the Academy welcome its 350th learner, who will be following in the footsteps of so many who, on completing the qualification, have progressed into employment within the sector. To date, 66% of our learners completing the qualification across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire have gone on to either paid employment, volunteering, or additional learning and qualifications. Positions offered have included HCAs across the NHS, care homes and agencies, support workers for various charities, and even an assistant occupational therapist! Further learning opportunities have included the Level 2 Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care as well as apprenticeships.



Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday Mornings 9.30am - 1pm** - Peterborough JCP
- **Monday 23rd September 10am - 2pm** - Ferry Meadows
- **Wednesday 25th September 10am - 2pm** - Back to School, Back to Work Jobs Fair, Wisbech Jobcentre
- **Thursday 26th September 9.30am - 1pm** - Cambridge JCP
- **Friday 27th September from 9am** - Macmillan Coffee Morning, Cross Keys Homes Hub, Bridge Street, Peterborough
- **Saturday 5th October 11am - 6pm** - Feel the Force Day, East of England Showground, Peterborough

Upcoming Courses

- **Wednesday 18th September** - Peterborough DWP, 10am - 2pm, 15 weeks
- **Friday 20th September** - Peterborough ESOL, 6pm - 9pm, 15 weeks
- **Monday 23rd September** - Wisbech, 10am - 2pm, 15 weeks
- **Monday 23rd September** - Cambridge, 10am - 2pm, 15 weeks
- **Tuesday 24th September** - Peterborough East, 10am - 2pm, 15 weeks
- **Monday 30th September** - Huntingdon, 10am - 2pm, 15 weeks

Sector-wise, recent figures published by the Combined Authority show a shortage of PAs across the region, with Peterborough having difficulty recruiting good quality nursing staff and East Cambridgeshire experiencing a significant shortage of nursing and dementia placements – a concern considering the projected 29% rise in the number of people suffering with the condition over the next six years. These figures heavily imply that now's the time to invest in both staff and the future of the NHS – and we want to help the sector do just that. We've recently attended NHS Open Recruitment Days in both Peterborough's City Care Centre and Cambridge's Brookfield Hospital, where the various career paths within the NHS were demonstrated, and interviews held there and then. This was a great opportunity for us to promote the academy and show how we are able to assist with valuable recruitment to ease the pressures of retention through the supply of committed, prepared learners.

What's Coming Up and How You Can Get Involved...

We've got plenty going on during the last few weeks of summer time, with courses underway in Cambridge, March and Peterborough and even a Peterborough evening course, which is running for 20 weeks from 6pm until 9pm every Thursday, so there is something for all potential learners, even those with other commitments during the day! September's new courses include Huntingdon, Wisbech and Peterborough (including a course geared towards ESOL learners), with Whittlesey, St Neots and Yaxley planned for October. Our weekends throughout the summer were busy with local festivals and family fun days, but don't worry if you didn't catch us at any of these, we have plenty in the diary for the autumn including our regular job centre attendance in Peterborough, Cambridge and Wisbech and promotional stands in local communities as well as Feel the Force Day in early October. See our Upcoming Events section above and follow us on social media to keep up to date with our daily activity!

We've been working with a charity project local to Wisbech to provide some of their volunteers, employees and associates with our training, with a course start planned for late September. The charity believes that the training we provide will enhance the learners' prospects and boost their confidence, which will help them long term as well as with their involvement with the charity. We also have several slots available across the region for employers to get involved and inspire our learners by 'Making it Real' – a perfect opportunity to give a real life insight into the sector and the possible career paths within it by guest speaking, mock interviews or group activities. Get in touch to find out more!



Cate Odaro, Community Support Leader for Thera East Anglia, has recently attended several 'Making it Real' sessions which she feels she has gotten a lot out of, with some learners already being offered employment.

"The Academy is a great way of informing people what the sector is about and what a good career it is to be in. While promoting the company I work for I was able to engage with the learners really well. They asked loads of sensible, thoughtful questions and took onboard the replies I gave. I think it's also a great way 'back to work' if you have had a break for whatever reason. Going through the theory of the Care Certificate is a fantastic way of learners understanding the legislation around the care sector."

The Thera Trust supports those across the UK with learning difficulties and has improved the lives of thousands locally since the East Anglian branch opened in 2006. The Health and Care Sector Work Academy is delighted to be working with Thera and are very grateful for Cate's support and shared vision.

David, one of our recent graduates, was referred to the Health and Care Sector Work Academy through a group he was already attending locally. He was initially nervous and discussed his concerns with his HCSWA mentor, but hoped that the course would improve his confidence, well-being and social skills. While studying, David applied for a volunteering role with Age UK, and was successful, immediately boosting his confidence. Speaking about his experience of studying with HCSWA, David said...

"My confidence was at rock bottom, now I can talk about things without feeling stressed out; it's made it easier for me to talk to people. Before the course I had trouble learning things, [it has] made me a stronger person."

As a learner, David was entitled to receive the same mentoring support he had benefited from throughout the Level 1 Award for up to four months after finishing, with the team on hand to assist with job searches, applications and interview prep.



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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