

## Press Release

### APPRENTICES BOOST FOR THE NHS

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#### **The NHS in the South West in on course to put in place more than 600 apprentices over the next six months.**

NHS Organisations across the region are working with the National Apprenticeship Service to boost recruitment to apprenticeships in a range of areas.

The South West Strategic Health Authority, with support from the Department of Health, are providing additional funding of around £1.2 million to support the project, which is part of a national campaign to increase the number of apprentices in the public sector.

Hospitals and Primary Care Trusts from Taunton to Truro, from Bristol to Bournemouth have enthusiastically embraced the campaign – and are already seeing the benefits.

At the moment apprentices are mostly being recruited to non-clinical areas. These include jobs in business administration, estates, catering and IT.

There has also been strong interest in apprenticeships for health care assistants and interest from dental nurses and pharmacy assistants.

The NHS is hoping to extend placements into more clinical support areas such as occupational therapy assistants, lab assistants, radiography assistants and phlebotomists.

John Chudley, Regional Director with the National Apprenticeships Service, said today: "These apprentices will get real on-the-job experience while improving their qualifications and contributing to the NHS workforce.

"We have been delighted with the way NHS South West organisations have enthusiastically embraced the project and have seen the real benefits apprentices can bring, particularly in areas and departments which have an ageing workforce.

"Their real commitment is shown by the fact that here in the South West we look set to exceed the target that the government set for us.

To find out more about Apprenticeships, visit [apprenticeships.org.uk](http://apprenticeships.org.uk) or call 08000 150 600

Amanda Shobrook, Widening Participation Manager for the South West Strategic Health Authority, said: "For us it has been a case of identifying where the apprentices could be best used – and then matching the young people to those areas, with the help of the Apprenticeships Vacancies online website.

"These are challenging times for everyone and it is important we offer high quality routes into jobs so that the NHS continues to have a highly skilled, highly motivated workforce in the future."

In England up to 5,000 new apprentices will start by next March.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

***A table giving a full breakdown of where apprentices are being put in place is attached with this press release.***

**Further information from: Sue Bradbury (LSC public relations) on 01872 863863.**

**National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)**

The NAS was announced in January 2008 and officially launched in April 2009. Reporting to the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the service will drive forward the Government's ambition for Apprenticeships. The service aims to bring about a significant growth in the number of employers offering Apprenticeships.

The NAS will assume total responsibility for the delivery of Apprenticeships that includes: Employer Services; Learner Services; and a web-based vacancy matching system. This online system enables individuals to search and apply for live vacancies and allows employers, and their training providers to advertise their vacancies to a wide range of interested applicants.

The service has ultimate accountability for the national delivery of targets and co-ordination of the funding for Apprenticeship places. It will act to overcome barriers to the growth of the programme and assume responsibility for promoting Apprenticeships and their value to employers, learners and the country as a whole.