

# LIVE & WORK PROJECT

The "Live & Work" Project is a partnership project Developed primarily between Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Hospitals Trust and West Midlands youth homelessness charity St Basils but with support from other organisations. The aim of the project is to provide Apprenticeship opportunities and living accommodation within the hospital to young people from St Basils.



St Basils and Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBHT) are doing their bit to bring some of the region's 24,000 'long term' empty properties back into use with a ground breaking new scheme which will offer homeless young people both paid Apprenticeships and nearby accommodation. A block of empty nurses lodgings have been leased to St Basils and fully renovated by their partner Keepmoat Regeneration using Empty Homes Fund. The project will initially house 27 Apprentices and 14 have been recruited to date with the remaining taking up their Apprenticeships and accommodation in April 2015 onwards.

Apprenticeship Frameworks offered so far include Intermediate Apprenticeships in Health & Social Care, Business Administration, Customer Service as well as Healthcare Support Services. Functional Skills in Maths, English and ICT are also delivered in house by SWBH Learning & Development Department via The Learning Works. On completion of the 12 month Apprenticeship the young people will be eligible to apply for jobs within the Trust and offered Work Club support to do this also through The Learning Works staff. They will be offered "move-on" support with accommodation from St Basils to enable them to progress not only into paid employment but also into permanent accommodation.



This particular scheme is highly innovative as it has never been done before within the NHS. The reasons for undertaking the Project are also to support our Public Health Strategy by helping to prevent the related health risks associated with homelessness and help young people get their lives back on track early, as well as supporting the Widening Participation agenda.



The Project is being supported financially by Health Education West Midlands who have provided funding for Apprenticeship salaries initially.

Prior to starting the Apprenticeship all candidates have also completed RISE, a five week Pre-Apprenticeship Programme at University Hospitals Birmingham, which supported them in their search for an Apprenticeship, developed customer service, gave an introduction to the NHS and supported with employability skills.

On commencement of their Apprenticeship programme all Apprentices complete a full mandatory Training Programme including Trust Induction, Health & Safety Training, Information Governance training, Moving & Handling and Conflict Resolution training.

Learners are monitored regularly as all Apprentices are via regular assessor visits by Trust assessors, through contact with Learning & Skills Workers from St Basils and by workplace supervisors. Problems are flagged early to offer support and intervention if and when needed.

The Project is closely monitored by both an Operational Group which meets every two weeks and a Strategic Group which meets every 3 months. Due to the partnership working these meetings are vital to work through actions plans, risks registers and make sure all partners are on board and working well together. Representatives from SWBH, St Basils and Keepmoat are always at each meeting and working relationships are very good. At times Strategic intervention has been needed to ensure proceedings are completed in a timely manner but the Project has the full backing of the Chairman and CEO of both organisations.

27 young people will initially benefit from the scheme but it is hoped the partnership will continue for many years and through the learning from this first scheme, be replicated elsewhere.

