Talent for Care Team and Nic Alexander

Next AHP Programme, East Suffolk North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

Next-AHP is a two-year work experience programme for local Year 12 students within the East Suffolk and North Essex area, and aims to provide experience across a number of Allied Health Professions through specific patient case studies. The programme has been specifically designed to widen participation with local young people from underrepresented backgrounds who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to engage in such a programme. Students who meet widening participation criteria will automatically be offered a place on the programme, with travel and lunch/refreshments provided to students on the programme. It is about giving equitable opportunity to our local young people to give them the best possible chance of making the right career-related decisions for them. The programme also recognises the strength of local recruitment, 'growing your own' local health and care workforce, and supporting the wider determinants of health for the local population.

Students have commented that they never would have considered some of the careers that they have been introduced to on the programme so far which has made them think differently about their future prospects. This is beneficial both for the future AHP workforce, and for local young people in supporting them to engage in equitable work experience. The proposed evaluation will include understanding the long term benefit of reduced vacancy rates on service capacity and the benefit of people in work and wider benefit to their long term health and health of their family (reducing health in equalities).