

Inspire Young Minds

Become an NHS Career Ambassador

Are you passionate about your job?

Do you want to inspire young people?

We're looking for volunteers to represent the Trust as NHS Career Ambassadors. You'll work with local schools and colleges to encourage learners to peruse a career in the NHS



Whatever your job, if you think you have what it takes to make it sound exciting and attractive, and you'd like to motivate young people then we'd like to hear from you

You can find out more by contacting **Natalie Usher**

Community Engagement Manager

Telephone: 01704 705184

Email: n.usher1@nhs.net

Find out more about becoming a NHS Career Ambassador

Are you passionate about your job?
Do you want to inspire young people?

Ormskirk Hospital

Information Session

**Thursday 12th April 11.30pm –12.30pm
in the Education Centre**

Southport Hospital

Information session

**Thursday 12th April— 2pm—3pm at the
Clinical Education Centre**



You can book a place on the above sessions by contacting

Natalie Usher = Community Engagement Manager

Telephone: 01704 705184

Email: n.usher1@nhs.net

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An introductory guide for
potential volunteers

Introduction

The NHS constantly needs to attract people with the right skills and values to fill the many vacancies and roles it supports. In order to do this we need to help people making career choices and job decisions to understand what working in healthcare is really like and the opportunities available in the NHS.

Talking honestly and enthusiastically about your job role can make a real difference for those thinking about working for the NHS. This guide will give you a brief outline of the role of an NHS Careers Ambassador and hopefully help you to decide whether it's a role you would like to take on.

What does the role involve?

NHS Careers Ambassadors act as a role model to young people, offering them the chance to find out as much as possible about jobs and

professions in the NHS and particularly the role that they play in providing excellent patient care.

As an Ambassador you will be invited to support careers activities and events across Merseyside and West Lancashire working with local schools and colleges.

This may include:

- **Careers Fairs** – giving advice and information to students who are keen to learn more about a career with the NHS and the important role you play
- **Workshops and interactive sessions** – where you can demonstrate elements of your role and show learners how you work
- **Talks and presentations** - to groups of learners to give insight into your role within the NHS
- **Informal talks and discussions**
- **Mock interviews and Career Carousels** – talking to students one to one and giving them advice and insight while they ask you questions



We recognise that different Ambassadors will have different skillsets and expertise and you can choose which types of events and activities you'd like to participate in.

How will being an NHS Career Ambassador benefit me?

A rewarding experience – Working with young people is often very rewarding and having a positive influence on their lives can also give you a feeling of great satisfaction.

Supports your personal development – By undertaking this role you could learn new skills and show an added commitment to your Trust and local community; these types of activities can boost your confidence and are often looked on favourably by employers.

Benefits the Trust – Staff talking to learners face to face is often the best possible advertisement for the NHS, supporting the creation of the workforce of tomorrow and finding the right workers to meet the growing demand in all of our departments and job roles.

Is this just for clinical staff?

Definitely not! A key aim of this initiative is to spread the word about all of the roles and career paths in the NHS. Although it's important that clinical staff are represented, it's also crucial that Ambassadors are able to show learners that the NHS is a great place to work whatever your skills and abilities and that we'd like to attract the best staff in all the professions we employ.



What support will I receive in my Ambassador Role?

The Trust is working in partnerships with the Merseyside Health Sector Careers & Engagement Hub to widen the participation of local schools and colleges. The Hub will work closely with the Trust's appointed lead for Careers Ambassadors who will liaise with you directly regarding opportunities to participate locally.

The Careers Hub can provide support in the preparation of activities, and have developed a bank of tools and resources to help you plan your activities and part in an event. The Hub team are also planning regular training workshops to bring Ambassadors together and share ideas and tips on how best to engage with young people around careers. If you'd like to attend a session the Trust's assigned lead (details at the end of this guide) can provide details.

The Hub team are also happy to accompany new Ambassadors to events, where possible, in order to support and build confidence.

How would my role as an Ambassador relate to my paid position with the Trust?

The Ambassador role is primarily a voluntary activity and not seen as a part of your substantive role with the Trust. If you would like to take part in an event or activity then you will need to discuss this with your line manager before committing to take part.

In some instances there may be capacity within your team to allow you to participate during working hours, but this is left to the discretion of your line manager and participation is not guaranteed. Another option would be for your manager to arrange for you to be off-duty during the specified time.

Although the role is voluntary in nature you are representing the Trust when undertaking ambassadorial duties and should act in accordance with its values and behavioural policies. Any disputes relating to incidents which occur while you are undertaking the role of Ambassador will be dealt with by the Trust through your line manager.

What will be expected of me?

There is no specific number of events that you will need to support, it could be you are involved with one, or maybe many more. Ambassadors are not expected to take part in a specific number of events each year so you can be as involved as you want. This said, the programme will only work if people get involved and volunteer their time. Some of the most important things that will be expected of you will be:

- **Be reliable** – If you commit to participating in an activity then make sure that you have time in your diary to allow it and you've planned ahead regarding getting to and from the venue. Although sometimes circumstances change and you might not be able to make it to a certain event, make sure you let the organiser know as soon as possible and not just via one means of communication (e.g. email half an hour before the event). Not attending affects the reputation of the Trust and the NHS as a whole which is the opposite of what we're trying to achieve.
- **Plan ahead** – Learners will have a much more positive experience when Ambassadors plan ahead for how they will participate in an event or activity. Think about what resources you will take with you, be it promotional materials or practical equipment. If you are presenting, talk to the organiser about what they are looking for and then spend some time structuring what you'll say. If you are struggling then the careers Hub have lots of resources that you can make use of and you may also like to attend one of the Ambassador training workshops.
- **Show your enthusiasm** – Learners will be inspired by staff who show their energy and passion for their jobs. It's also important that they feel the NHS is invested in their future and wants them to join the team

How do I sign up?

If you are interested in taking part then you'll need to get in contact with the appointed lead for NHS Career Ambassadors. At your Trust this person is:

Name: Natalie Usher

Telephone: 01704 705184

Email: n.usher1@nhs.net

The appointed lead will maintain a register of Ambassadors for the Trust and will contact ambassadors regarding events and activities to take part in; they may have certain checks or registration procedures to go through with you before placing you on the register