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# Lived Experience Connectors®

'Strengthening person centred nursing'

Helping people to be the best they can be

In December 2015, M.P. Ben Gummer announced Plans to create a new health role, called Nursing Associates, bridging the gap between the Health Care Support Workers and Registered Nurses (HEE 2016).

Trainee Nursing Associates will be paid members of staff who will be training through work place learning and one day a week at University to become Nursing Associates.

They will be taught to focus on people's journeys and individual needs. Nursing Associates will be person centred practitioners who experience the whole patient journey, from conception to end of life in mental health, learning disability and physical health services. They will work alongside healthcare support workers and fully qualified nurses to deliver hands on care, ensuring people who use our services continue to get the compassionate person centred care they deserve.

Nursing associates will support nurses to spend more time using their specialist training to focus on clinical duties and take more of a lead in decisions about patient care.

To foster person centred care approaches each Trainee Nursing Associate will be allocated to a lived experience connector for the duration of their training programme.

Lived Experience Connectors® are people who have experience accessing services. They will inform the whole learning experience and provide trainees with continuous support and feedback in their journey to develop person centred practice.

The Lived Experience Connector® and trainee will meet during each placement to help the trainee understand and reflect on the people they work with and their impact on that relationship.



Each Lived Experience Connector® will be carefully matched up with a trainee nursing associate to facilitate a narrative with them. By a person using their lived experience this will help the trainee to focus, thus ensuring that all people who use our services are kept at the centre of the care process throughout their training and beyond.

Lived Experience Connectors® will be given support throughout and will be required to become volunteers and undergo all the statutory checks such DBS clearance as well as complete all the mandatory volunteer training. There will also be training on confidentiality, the importance of boundaries, resilience and support.

Lived Experience Connectors® will use their skills to describe their own experiences, emotions, feelings, fears, concerns and hopes, which will help the trainees to reflect on their practice and to build relational skills to give the best person centred care.

# **Specific Skills:**

- Direct Lived Experience
- Ability to draw on own experience and to share appropriately
- Be reliable and trustworthy

#### What it is not:

- Not a mentor or supervisory role
- Not a therapy session
- Not academic support for the trainee

### **Lead Employer**

Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

## **Employer Partners**

East Cheshire Trust, Warrington & Halton Trust, Wirral University Teaching Hospital & 5 Boroughs Partnership Wirral Community

#### **Placement Partners**

Northwest Ambulance Service, Countess of Chester, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, Mid Cheshire Hospitals & Bridgewater Community Trust

#### **Education Partners**

University of Chester