



Staffordshire Trainee Nurse Associate Programme

Communication Update – January 2022

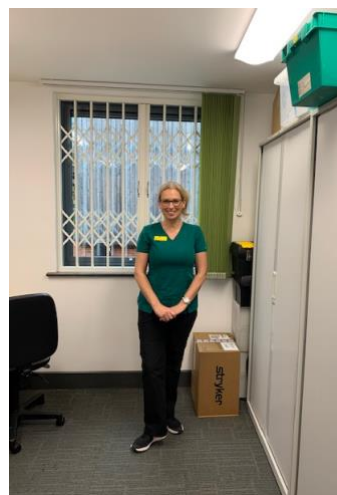
Earlier this year, North Staffordshire GP Federation in partnership with Health Education England and representatives from Staffordshire Primary Care Networks, have pioneered the Staffordshire Trainee Nurse Associate pilot, the first of its kind in the country.

Our recruitment process was shortened due to the high volume of applicants applying. Over 100 applicants in a two-week window applied for the position. Of these, 22 were shortlisted and interviewed with 8 TNAs recruited to join the programme.

In September 2021 all TNAs commenced across the Staffordshire PCNs, with interest from 6 PCNs in North Staffordshire, 1 in South Staffordshire and 1 in the East. The TNAs will be working 3 days in general practice and 2 days attending their chosen university. Feedback received has been positive to date. One TNA has resigned from the programme due to personal reasons.



*Michelle Baker Trainee Nurse Associate
Moorlands Rural PCN (Alton Surgery)*



*Rachel Orton Trainee Nurse Associate
East Staffordshire PCN (All Saint's Surgery)*

The next phase of the programme is to commence the first 9 week block placements across a wide discipline of areas including extended access / walk in services, nursing homes, hospices, district nursing teams and vaccination centres.



Our programme has devised a peer support network for both the TNAs and their GP practice Clinical Supervisors to provide support to individual members of the group. In addition, we are enhancing our TNAs clinical supervision with protected bi monthly supervision to align with best practice as stated by the Care Quality Commission on Clinical Supervision.

Our programme has been eligible for the new apprenticeship funding to support new recruits into the NHS. Our team has been able to secure funding uniforms, supporting with onboarding costs and funding towards an evaluation.

We are delighted to have commissioned Dr Elizabeth Cottrell, from Wolstanton Medical Practice who will commence an evaluation of the effectiveness of the TNA programme. Dr Cottrell has worked with North Staffordshire GP Federation on the evaluation of other projects supporting new roles in primary care.

We have a Trainee Nurse Associate at our practice. She has quickly settled in and will form a valued part of our team. The skills she will learn will be extremely valued, plugging the gap in General Practice Nursing as their role also develops.

[Dr Catherine Harris. HIPC PCN](#)

Lucy Minshull – Project Manager, Staffordshire Trainee Nurse Associate Programme
Rachel Viggars – Clinical Nurse Lead, Staffordshire Trainee Nurse Associate Programme

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