

LOCAL EMPLOYER DIPLOMA CHAMPION – SOCIETY, HEALTH and DEVELOPMENT

Name: Jo Beckwith

Job title: Widening Participation Manager

Jo works for the Nottinghamshire Health and Social Care Community Workforce Team at the NHS, where her main role is to promote access to and opportunities for work-related learning experiences, training, development and jobs in Health and Social Care for young people across Nottinghamshire.

In this role she works closely with schools and colleges at careers events to promote opportunities across health and social care, particularly focusing on the 14-19 Diplomas and work experience placements. She aims to raise awareness to both students and teachers of the wide range of occupational areas on offer in the NHS.

Jo's role as a Diploma Champion involves her promoting the Diplomas within the business world and engaging employers to take part in the delivery of the Diplomas. She also acts as a role model for young learners, to inspire and encourage them to achieve their full potential.

Jo is passionate about her role. "It is so important to get students involved in meaningful work experience placements that will benefit them and inspire them to consider a career in the sector. It is so important for the NHS to be fully engaged with their future workforce, especially with an ageing population and the increased and changing demands in the workforce."

Prior to taking on this role, Jo qualified as a registered general nurse, progressing on to become a ward sister, managing her ward and supervising staff. It was then that her career took more of a managerial path, from a lead nurse, to a senior nurse recruitment and retention post which involved promoting and implementing specific projects to meet the challenges within nurse recruitment.

She has also held a practice learning lead post which involved working closely with other NHS trusts, social care and higher education institutions to meet requirements. She was focussed on

developing the capacity and quality of practice learning opportunities for students of nursing, midwifery and health professionals.