



Careers

Joined Up Care Derbyshire

About us

Careers at Joined Up Care Derbyshire brings together local partner organisations to support the current and future health and social care workforce. We seek to find the best candidates for roles within the health and social care sector of Derby and Derbyshire – and support them on their career journey. We are part of Joined Up Care Derbyshire, the Integrated Care System (ICS), helping individuals and teams work in new ways to meet the ever-changing needs of patients and the public.



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Healthcare Support Worker Awards

The finalists and winners of the Healthcare Support Worker awards were announced in November 2025, in line with National Support Worker Day. Many fantastic nominations were received from different employers across Joined Up Care Derbyshire, highlighting the amazing work and care provided by our support workforce.

And the winners were.....



The Derbyshire
VCSE sector
Alliance





Going the Extra Mile Award

Claire Ellis – Senior Care Assistant, Complete Care Chesterfield

We received no less than seven nominations for Claire, which truly shows how valued she is by her colleagues and managers. Just some of the wonderful comments included:

“A great leader and role model, such an inspiration and she lifts everyone” “Goes the extra mile for not just her co-workers but also her clients, she will get shopping for them if they run out of food, is always available for families to ring her”

“She has helped me become a better carer”

“She works non-stop to make sure no-one goes without, even if that means no break for her”

“An amazing lady and carer”. “If I was in the position of needing a carer for myself or any of my family members then she would be the person I would want caring for them”

“Her clients love her, on Christmas day she will dress up in a Christmas outfit and make the day special for her clients, buying them a little gift. She is a complete and utter star and there are not enough words to describe how amazing she is”.



New to Care Award

Aparna Madhu – Healthcare Support Worker, Ward 3, Florence Nightingale Community Hospital, UHDB

Aparna joined Ward 3 in November 2024 and was nominated by her manager, Maradel.

“Aparna is an exceptional Healthcare Assistant who consistently demonstrates professionalism, compassion, and dedication in her role”.

“Her friendly smile and welcoming attitude foster a warm and inclusive environment for everyone.”

“She embodies the values of teamwork, respect, and reliability—qualities that are consistently recognised and appreciated by the multidisciplinary team she works alongside.”

“Aparna truly exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding Healthcare Assistant.”



Unsung Hero Award

Hooria Rasheed – Care Worker, High Peak Carers

“Hooria embodies the very essence of our organisational values, consistently demonstrating compassion, integrity, and dedication in every aspect of her work”

“She never seeks recognition, yet her actions have a profound impact on colleagues, service users, and families alike”



Student of the Year Award

Ruby Tweed – Clinical Apprentice, Ward 20, Queens Hospital Burton, UHDB

As a new apprentice, only having been in the role a few months, Ruby was nominated by both Claire Ellis and Donna Stringer after settling in so well to her apprenticeship.

“Ruby is kind, caring, hardworking. She communicates well with patients and other staff. She is well liked and has become a massive asset to her team.” “She is always eager to learn new skills.”

“She always shows initiative in her role and always asks for help if she needs it”

“Ruby deserves this award as she is the best new apprentice/HCA I have worked with and I have been in Nursing for 38 years”



Lifetime Achievement Award

Vanessa Murphy – Generic Therapy Assistant, Therapy Inpatients, Royal Derby Hospital, UHDB

Initially starting as a care assistant in 1987 for Derbyshire Social Services, and moving into various caring roles, Vanessa has now been in her Therapy Assistant role for 25 years. Some of the highlights in Vanessa’s nomination by Alison Jelley are below:

“Vanessa is dedicated to providing the highest quality care possible for her patients. She has such a caring nature. She will happily sit and listen to patients allowing them time to allay their fears. She will also share happy stories with her patients and their visitors and has the perfect balance of positivity and realism which is essential in the field of cancer care.”

“Vanessa is so hard working and demonstrates excellent initiative to ensure the workload is covered. A colleague and I regularly comment on the “Vanessa effect”, which is a sense of calmness and efficiency across the whole team.”



As there were so many wonderful nominations in certain categories, below are the finalists who were also chosen to receive a certificate:

New to Care Award

Ruby Smith – High Peak Carers

Lifetime Achievement Award

Angela Hare – Chesterfield Royal Hospital

Unsung Hero Award

Kerry Smedley – Chesterfield Royal Hospital

Tina Malpass – UHDB

Going the Extra Mile Award

Heather Maurice-Smith – Ashgate Hospice

Elizabeth Taylor – Care Relief Team, Chesterfield

A huge congratulations to all of the winners and finalists!



Allied Health Professions and Health Sciences Insight Day

The Careers and Anchor team, in partnership with University Hospitals of Derby and Burton, invited local students (aged 16-19) to a work experience insight day in September. Students were given the opportunity to participate in activities and scenarios and learned from health care professionals about their roles, career pathways and gained invaluable work experience to support their career decisions.

The sessions provided covered dietetics, podiatry and clinical measurement and a marketplace filled with AHP professionals and apprentices sharing their insights.

Further insight days for 2026 will be planned and advertised on our web pages with information on how to book.





JUCD Apprentice Awards 2026

Nominations are open for Joined Up Care Derbyshire's first system-wide Apprentice Awards! These awards are open to any apprentices within health and social care (clinical and non-clinical) across Joined Up Care Derbyshire – whether they're in an NHS organisation, care home, GP practice, or the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Winners will be announced during National Apprenticeship Week in February 2026

Apprentice award categories

Categories are open to both clinical and non-clinical apprentices across all levels.

Intermediate apprentice – Level 2

Celebrating apprentices working toward Level 2 qualifications who have demonstrated exceptional progress, dedication, and enthusiasm early in their apprenticeship journey. Nominees show strong commitment to developing new skills, overcoming challenges, and contributing positively to their workplace.

Advanced apprentice – Level 3

Recognising apprentices at Level 3 who have delivered outstanding performance in their roles and shown the motivation, confidence, and capability to excel in their career pathway. These individuals demonstrate maturity, initiative, and a clear drive to succeed.

Higher apprentice – Level 4 or 5

Honouring apprentices undertaking higher apprenticeships (Level 4+), who have made a significant impact within their organisation while managing demanding academic and professional responsibilities. Nominees should show leadership potential, technical excellence, and a strong contribution to organisational outcomes.

Degree apprentice – Level 6 or 7

This award recognises exceptional degree apprentices who have excelled academically while making a significant contribution to their organisation. Nominees will have demonstrated strong professional skills, leadership potential, resilience in balancing demanding responsibilities, and a clear commitment to shaping a successful future career.

Apprentice Champion Award

Nominated exclusively by apprentices, this is your chance to thank the individual who has championed you as an apprentice - whether a mentor, supervisor, or line manager. This category recognises individuals who foster inclusive and empowering environments and inspire others through their unwavering encouragement and guidance. Nominees for this award will have consistently demonstrated a passion for nurturing emerging talent and a commitment to creating opportunities for learning and advancement within their organisation.

Link to the nomination form: [Joined Up Care Derbyshire Apprentice Awards 2026 – Nomination form](#)

The nominations are open to all Care workers, Healthcare Support Workers, Therapy Support Workers and unregistered workforce working in any Joined Up Care Derbyshire partner organisations including:

- University Hospitals of Derby & Burton
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital
- Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust
- Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- DHU Healthcare
- East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- General Practice
- Any social care or voluntary sector organisation in Derby and Derbyshire

Closing date for nominations is 12th Jan 2026.

Care experienced young people contribute more than 1,000 hours of work as part of successful programme hosted by Midland's employers

An empowering employment initiative has achieved outstanding results in supporting care-experienced young people across the Midlands, delivering more than 1,000 hours of hands-on employment-based learning and achieving an impressive completion rate.

The programme, spearheaded by Severn Trent, with the aid of Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland NHS, and supported by the Care Leavers Covenant, brought together major employers from across the Midlands such as Birmingham Airport, NEC, E.ON, Novotel, Ibis, Dodd Group, Kier, Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland NHS, Derby & Derbyshire NHS, Pertemps and Wincanton.

It has been hailed as an example of what can be achieved when organisations unite to create real opportunities for young people.

A total of 38 young people started on the programmes with 33 completing and gaining more than 1,000 hours of work experience between them all. They all now have access to a mentor for the next year to support them with their next step.

Together the organisations offered tailored placements designed to break down barriers and provide meaningful access to the world of work. These placements provided not only practical experience but also mentorship, confidence-building, and a vital sense of connection to the workforce.

Following the programme's success, Severn Trent has committed to creating 400 work experience placements over the next four years in the Midlands for care leavers.

Susan Spray, Careers and Anchor Lead for the Derby and Derbyshire ICS, said: *"We are really pleased to be partnering in this scheme for the first time this year. The organisations involved have all been very proactive in seeing how we can best provide opportunities to young people who need a bit of support in finding work and making their way in life. It is great to be able to help our care experienced community in this way, and by doing so in future schemes, we aim to increase the number of placements and ultimately improve the care we can provide by filling critical workforce vacancies."*

The alliance is calling on more Midlands-based businesses to get involved. Whether by hosting placements, offering employability training, or partnering with others, there are many ways to contribute to a more inclusive and economically vibrant region.

You can read the full article here: [Care experienced young people contribute more than 1,000 hours of work as part of successful programme hosted by Midland's employers | News Releases | News | Severn Trent Water](#)



Aspiring Medical Students in need of placements

The Pathways to Medicine programme is run in partnership with social mobility charity The Sutton Trust and the University of Nottingham. The 2-year programme offers year 12 and 13 students from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to gain access to highly competitive courses, such as Medicine. Students completing the Pathways course benefit from a reduced grade offer to Medicine plus access to bursaries (for example, a requirement for AAA at A'level may be reduced to ABB). The 2025/2026 Pathways programme received 400 applications, and 44 Year 12 students have just been offered a place on the programme. In the Derbyshire area, there are 12 aspiring medical students seeking placements across Joined Up Care Derbyshire during 2026.

The students are 16 or 17 years old (more likely to be 17 later in the year) and have been selected for the programme based on widening participation criteria including free school meals, care experienced, caring responsibilities, first generation attending university and post code. Places were given to the most eligible students, whose grades met GCSE entry requirements for University of Nottingham Medicine degree, as well as studying the necessary subjects at A-Level.

Placement requirements

We are looking for employers who would be able to offer valuable in-person work experience to support the student's journey to applying to medicine, gaining knowledge of the industry and building confidence which will prepare them for interview. Therefore, we would ask that the opportunities:

- Are 2-5 days in length
- Take place between January – end of September 2026
- Are in an NHS setting ideally, or care related setting
- Ideally takes place during the school holidays, but this is not essential if the student can get permission from school.

Please contact Susan Spray susan.spray@nhs.net for further discussion or to register support.



Calling all registered pharmacies in Derbyshire!



Big changes are coming to pharmacy supervision – are you ready?

The JUCD Pharmacy Faculty is running a short survey to understand current pharmacy supervision practices across our system. Your insights will help shape local guidance, workforce development plans and support resources for the upcoming legislative changes.

What's changing?

New legislation will allow:

- Pharmacists to authorise pharmacy technicians to supervise key tasks
- Trained team members to hand out checked prescriptions without a pharmacist present
- Pharmacy technicians to lead hospital aseptic units

These changes will modernise practice, improve patient access and make the most of your team's skills.

Who should complete this?

Community pharmacies, hospital pharmacies and other registered premises in Derbyshire – owners, superintendent pharmacists, responsible pharmacists, aseptic managers and designated leads.

Have your say today!

Your feedback matters. Help us prepare for the future of pharmacy supervision.

<https://forms.office.com/e/NWJNMXKEE8>

Let's shape the future together!

Derbyshire Students Explore Life as Future Doctors at University of Derby

Derbyshire students have been taking their first steps toward careers in medicine at hands-on events which transform a university lecture hall into a simulated clinical environment.

From taking patient histories to performing CPR, students at two events during 2025 were immersed in realistic scenarios that aimed to build their confidence and prepare them for medical school applications.

Hosted by the University of Derby, the “Recognising Potential: Developing Aspiring Doctors” programme has this year helped 76 Year 12 students with the chance to experience life as a doctor - interviewing patients, making diagnoses, and navigating ward rounds.

One group also prepped for university interviews with doctors who volunteered their time to help out and give feedback.

It was designed in partnership with The Hub Plus, Derbyshire, which helps keep the primary care workforce up-to-date with skills, development, wellbeing and learning. The programme focuses on widening participation by supporting students who may face barriers to accessing traditional work experience.

Dr Runa Saha, Founding Dean of Medicine at the University of Derby, said: *“Supporting young people to explore medicine is central to our mission. Events like this help students see themselves in roles they may not have previously considered. We are committed to making medical education accessible and inclusive for all.”*



Participants from the events completed pre-and post-event evaluations. Every attendee rated the event as good or excellent, and all reported feeling confident or very confident about applying to medicine.

Additionally, 97% believed they would receive at least one offer to study medicine.

Dr. Susie Bayley, Hub Plus Medical Director, said: *“Broadening access to experiences like this is essential if we’re going to build a future medical workforce that reflects the communities it serves. These students are the doctors of tomorrow, and we must give them every opportunity to see themselves in that role.”*

Feedback from students highlighted the value of the experience. One student said, *“This is the most useful work experience EVER—I loved it.”* Another commented, *“It was really good as it gave me a great insight into what it would be like to be a doctor. It was very interactive, and I feel I have developed a lot of skills I could use in my personal statement.”* A third added: *“Honestly this was better than shadowing at a GP or hospital. The consultations were the best bit—I was able to practise as well.”*

Lee Radford, Chief People Officer at NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB, has a workforce team based in job centres and other community venues to encourage people to work in health and care. He said: *“Developing a diverse and skilled workforce is vital to the future of healthcare in our region. Programmes like this not only inspire young people but also help us address long-term workforce challenges by opening doors to those who might not otherwise have considered a career in medicine.”*

Students also appreciated the opportunity to take on the role of a doctor rather than simply observe. One participant said, *“Hands-on experience was brilliant! I’ve loved every second of today and have found it very beneficial. I wasn’t shadowing—instead, I was the doctor, which I’ve found so much more useful and enjoyable.”*

The programme is now rolling out fun activities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds who can access free support in the school holidays. Through holiday clubs they will take part in activities including age appropriate medical scenarios, mental wellbeing and dental care, funded in part by the Tom Donaldson fund, which supports people with low-income backgrounds in their applications to study medicine at university.

Year 9 Virtual Work Experience

In September 2025, the Careers & Anchor team were asked to co-host a 3-day virtual work experience programme, in partnership with Futures for All, which is a UK social mobility charity. The team were joined by various colleagues from across Joined Up Care Derbyshire to provide an insight into different professions through talks, polls, quizzes and other interactive methods. Four year 9 classes from different schools joined the programme, where they signed into the virtual classroom to take part in the sessions. The students were asked to work in groups to deliver a presentation at the end of the 3 days, demonstrating some of what they had learnt. This proved to be a successful three-day experience for the students, who learnt a lot about careers and employability skills, a variety of NHS roles, and linking this to the skills and education that they might need to do these jobs.



Find out about career opportunities in Derby

Are you looking for a career in care? Have you checked out Derby City Council's latest web content? Explore the opportunities of working in care on their [Care for Derby website](#). The site sets out the benefits of working in care and provides information on adult social care and children's social care.

Contact Careers at Joined Up Care Derbyshire

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