



Remember if you have any questions or problems or just want to talk to someone about the project, we are always available.

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Thanks for thinking about taking this choice to really make a difference to a young person's life and prospects.



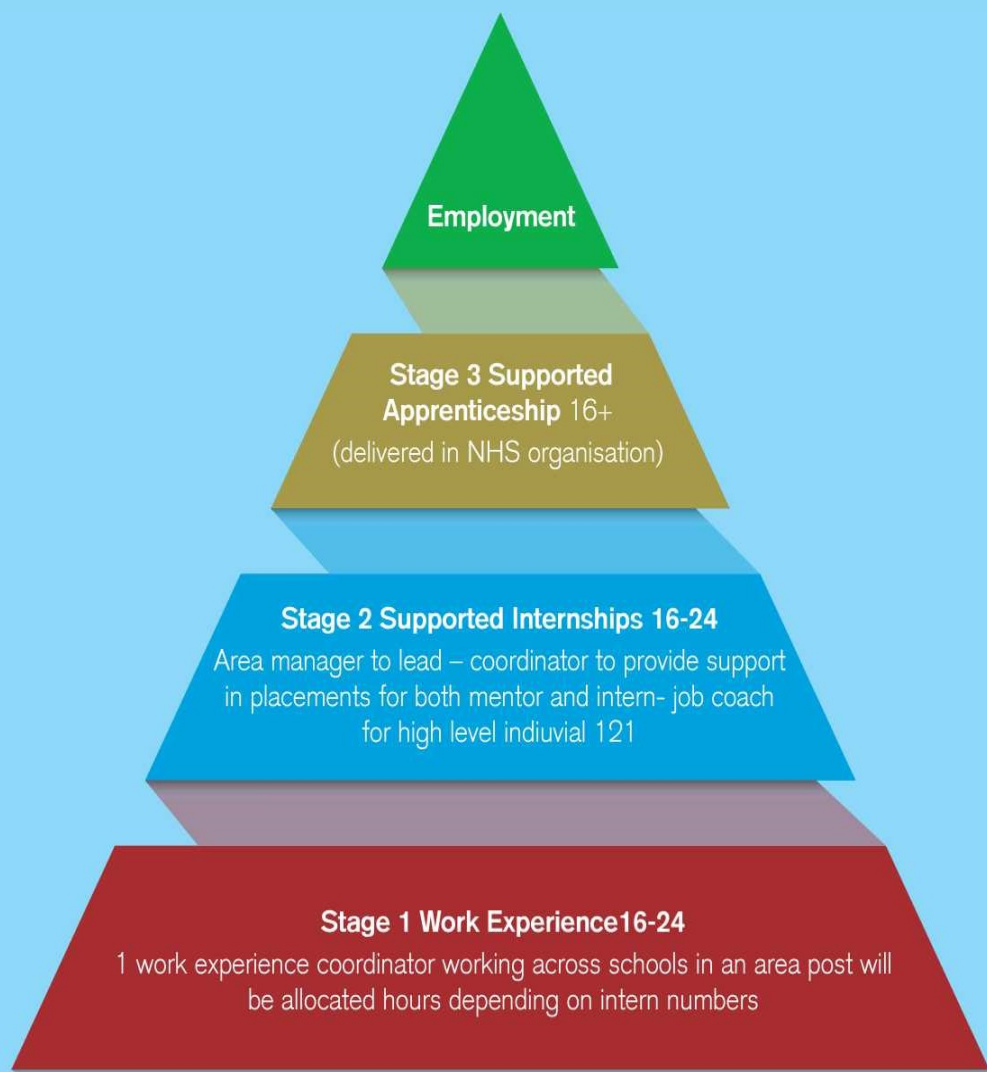
What is it all about?

Professor Jane Cummings, Chief Nursing Officer for England said:

I am delighted that Health Education England HEE will now be supporting Trusts to directly deliver supported internships across the NHS and working with the Department for Education to increase supported apprenticeships across the NHS. Employing people with learning disabilities is an essential part of transforming the care we provide and that is why we have worked with HEE to ensure that there are sustainable pathways to paid employment across the NHS. More than 100 NHS trusts, commissioning organisations and national bodies have pledged to employ more people with learning disabilities, and internships and apprenticeships have proved to be an excellent way of providing the training and support they need to help lead independent lives.

Project Choice is a Supported Internship for people with disabilities, difficulties, learning disabilities or Autism. The programme is delivered within NHS organisations supported by Health Education England.

The project takes a three-tiered approach to preparation for work.



Stage One - Work Experience

- ◆ We offer term time placements which usually last six weeks but can be shorter.
- ◆ Mentor training is provided.
- ◆ Learners start work at 9:30am and finish at 12:15. Slight variations around this time can be negotiated with the schools.
- ◆ We like to end each intake with a certificate presentation.

What makes a successful placement?

- ◆ The learner has an experience of real work and not just a token appearance in the department.
- ◆ The learner begins to behave as a responsible member of the work force.
- ◆ The student is treated as a member of staff.
- ◆ The student is always with a trained mentor.
- ◆ The student and mentor have a positive learning journey

The core aims of stage 1 of the project are:

- ◆ To empower learners with their rights as individuals in the work place.
- ◆ To raise awareness of the high impact, high quality, high calibre and high performance that a person with a learning disability, difficulty, disability or Autism brings to the work place.
- ◆ To bring equality into the workplace.
- ◆ To provide the learners with a life experience outside of the home and school.
- ◆ To extend the young person's knowledge of work and work opportunities.
- ◆ Through partnership working create a pathway to work.
- ◆ Widen participation into work in the NHS



Stage Two - Supported Internship

How does it work?

- ◆ Interns are in work for 4 days a week with a day studying.
- ◆ The year is split up into three terms.
- ◆ Interns initially may be accompanied by our job coach, until they have developed the knowledge and skills to work independently.
- ◆ The working day for an intern is negotiable depending on placement.
- ◆ Interns will already travel independently or will be on a training programme for this.
- ◆ There will be regular honest reviews of the intern's progress.
- ◆ Area manager/coordinator or Job coach will always be available to support student.

What makes a successful placement?

- ◆ The intern has an experience of real work and not just a token appearance in the department.
- ◆ The interns are able to take on a workload.
- ◆ The learner is able to demonstrate clear progressive steps towards employment.
- ◆ The intern is treated as a member of staff.
- ◆ The learner begins to behave as a responsible member of the work force.
- ◆ The intern eventually works independently.
- ◆ The intern and the mentor have a positive learner journey.
- ◆ Attitudes to disability are changed in the workplace.