

St Wilfrid's Hospice, Chichester
and St Barnabas' Hospice, Worthing

Summer school for 16-19 year olds

Members of The Hospice UK Education and Training Consortium have offered summer schools for 16-19 year olds to provide an insight into working in a hospice. Feedback found them to be a positive experience for both the students and the hospice as an organisation, and so St Wilfrid's and St Barnaba's decided this was something they would like to trial.

By holding summer schools for 16-19 year olds the consortium found an opportunity to demonstrate to young people how hospices work. They wanted to break down taboos that future generations might otherwise hold onto surrounding end of life care and experiences when receiving hospice care.

The opportunity of summer school in a hospice aimed to give students aged 16-19 years a taster experience and help them to decide whether a career in health and social care might be for them.

We saw this as potentially a very powerful workforce development opportunity focussing on the "get in" phase of Apprenticeships and entry into health and social care.

St Wilfrid's and St Barnaba's managed to get this project to be commissioned by Health Education England Kent, Surrey Sussex (HEEKSS) - so brought some income into the hospice too. Both organisations have raised an interest in repeating the project again if possible.

What we wanted to achieve

The ultimate aim of the project was to offer a 'taster' of what it's like to work in a hospice to young people who were interested in working in health and social care, to help them assess whether a career in the sector was suitable for them.

We wanted to give 20 16-19 year old across both hospice sites, a structured learning experience which would involve classroom and experiential learning.

We wanted to build a partnership with our local Further Education (FE) college and to offer the students' qualification credit framework (QCF) units relating to end of life care (namely 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 201 and 206).

We wanted to engage the hospice staff, particularly those doing clinical roles, so they would provide meaningful shadowing opportunities for these young people.

What we did

Historically hospice education departments have a quiet spell over August so we had the resource available to deliver such a programme for two weeks over the summer.

We thought about our aims and objectives and the outline of this programme. We sought agreement from our local FE college about working in partnership and the costs in terms of their registration, quality checking and certification of the QCF units we wanted to deliver

We formulated a bid using a template developed by HEEKSS and waited for approval. Following approval, both hospices then advertised the opportunity to local schools and six form colleges and received enough interest and applications to make it viable.

21 students were recruited across both sites and 18 actually attended on Day 1 and finished the course after submitting course work.

We delivered the experience in August over 2 weeks. Week 1 was mainly classroom activity and imparting the knowledge component of the QCF's and Week 2 gave an opportunity for

them to shadow for a day someone in practice in clinical areas such as Day Care services, Physiotherapy department, Clinical Nurse Specialist Team or the In Patient Ward. We used some of the classroom time to start the coursework associated with the QCF units but also delivered at St Wilfrid's the foundation Sage and Thyme communication skills course and the Dementia Friends awareness session; these were really well evaluated by the students.

What we achieved

We achieved all of our objectives. From the student's comments you can see that they benefitted from the course and have used the summer school experience to write their personal statements at college for university applications. Marking is underway at both hospices and the St Wilfrid's students have been informed that they have fully met the criteria for the units they studied subject to external examiner approval.

The hospice as a whole really enjoyed and benefitted from the experience.

The education department found it a very rewarding experience and we brought in some income during a month when courses do not normally run because of school holidays.

 **I have deepened my knowledge considerably into end of life care. This course has cemented my opinion that I definitely want to work in healthcare** 

Summer school participant

 The summer school has been a very positive and motivating teaching experience. It was fantastic teaching young people before the launch of their health and social care careers. There has been a buzz and energy around the hospice during the 2 week summer school and I feel that the students have shadowed the very best care delivery in the hospice setting and will come away with some very worthwhile qualification credit framework awards too. Thoroughly enjoyed leading this initiative at St Wilfrid's Hospice 

Michele Booth, Head of Education

What we learnt

St Wilfrid's Hospice originally had 11 students enrolled but 1 withdrew a few days before and 2 failed to attend on day 1 and did not inform us beforehand.

In future we would need to ensure that each student at interview is aware of the monetary commitment HEEKSS is making and that they need to give a firm obligation to the summer school when they accept.

Our other thoughts for the future would include:

- To make an application for summer schools money in March/April 2016 for 2016 for a further ten students.
- To run the summer school in the first two weeks of August 2016 and avoid AS and GCSE result weeks.
- To continue to include a Dementia Friends session, a Sage and Thyme session, a meet the professional session and careers talk.
- To keep the following QCF units 131, 201 and 206 which are more generically focussed and abandon 128, 129, 130 and 132 which principally relate to social care work.
- To look at offering a second experiential day now that the hospice has some more experience of having 16-18 year olds (one in day care services and a shorter period 9-2 on the ward).
- To begin early negotiation with local college and independent QCF companies in order to secure support for registration and accreditation.

For more information please contact

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www.stwh.co.uk

Skills for Care Recommends

Skills for Care has developed a range of resources aimed at those considering a career in adult social care, as well as resources for those currently delivering or wishing to offer end of life care.

Sector route-way

This online resource can help unemployed people to give them the skills and confidence to move into entry and other level jobs in the adult social care sector.

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/caresectorrouteway

I Care... Ambassadors

These are individuals who direct work in care who can talk to those considering a career in the sector about ways into adult social care and discuss different type of roles.

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/inspire

End of Life care resources

From guidance to practical training resource and videos, Skills for Care promotes various resources to help strengthen understanding within End of Life care provision.

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/endoflifecare

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