**Supported Internships 2020-2021**

**September 2020:**

**Cheshire East have extended the Education, Health and Care plans for the Interns so that they can return to their placements during the autumn term and complete them alongside their Sixth Form qualifications. Two of the Interns have returned to their placements at the hospital and have been brilliant at remembering and following the new COVID-19 safety rules. One Intern is remaining at home due to parental concerns about COVID-19. The Interns who have returned have remembered most of their work tasks really well and have already increased their independence, reducing the number of hours their job coaches are with them. Alongside this, one of the Interns has just started travel training with his job coach, learning to walk to and from the hospital independently.**

**School is working closely with staff at the hospital, Rossendale Trust and Cheshire East to make sure the Interns have the best possible chance at gaining paid employment at the end of their placements.**

**Update December 2020**

The two Interns, who were able to return to their placements in September, have continued to work throughout the autumn term, despite another lockdown. The hospital has worked closely with school and staff from the Rossendale Trust, to ensure there were robust risk assessments carried out in order for the Interns to work with their job coaches, in their placements, as safely as possible.

Both Interns were also working on travel training with their job coaches, learning to walk from their homes, to the hospital. Both young people were doing extremely well with this, only requiring support when crossing main roads where there isn’t a specific crossing place.

Over the autumn term, the level of support for both Interns decreased, meaning they were working independently for longer periods and were doing incredibly well. However, due to the impact of COVID-19 on the hospital restaurant, the hospital staff found it difficult to be able to find sufficient tasks for the young person whose placement was in the restaurant and to support him when he required it, if his job coach wasn’t there. Sadly, it was decided that the placement for this Intern would end at Christmas because of the increasing restrictions placed on the hospital restaurant due to the Corona Virus pandemic.

A new placement has been found for this young person, working in the canteen of All Hallows Catholic College and plans are in place for the Intern to complete his induction within the first week of the spring term and to begin his placement with his existing job coach the week after that. This is very exciting as the Intern in question will be able to consolidate and extend the skills he has already learnt at the hospital, in a new environment. Funding for the job coaches, through Access to Work has been extended to at least Easter 21, in recognition of the disruption the pandemic has had on the Interns and their placements.

**Update January 21**

Due to the National Lockdown starting at the beginning of the spring term, one of the Interns has been unable to start his new placement at All Hallows Catholic College as he is shielding. It is hoped, this placement will be able to begin once the lock down has ended. It has been confirmed that Access to Work funding will continue to until the end of the summer term and is able to be paused whilst the Intern isn’t in his placement.

The other Intern continues to work on his travel training and in his placement at the hospital and is doing extremely well. He has taken the extra COVID-19 safety requirements for his workplace in his stride and is beginning to work longer hours without his job coach. His placement at the hospital will end at Easter 2021.

**Update April 21:**

One of the Interns has completed his placement at the hospital and has left school. Unfortunately, the hospital were unable to offer him any paid work at this time, but he has applied to become a volunteer there. He is continuing to work with the Rossendale Trust, who provided job coaches for our Supported Interns, and will work on developing his CV and applying for jobs.

The other Intern remains at home as he is waiting until he has had both COVID vaccinations before starting his placement at All Hallows Catholic College.

**Update July 21:**

We are keeping in contact with the Intern who left school at Easter and he is successfully volunteering at the hospital one day a week, completing the tasks he worked on during his Supported Internship. He is doing this without any support at all. He continues to work with Rossendale Trust, looking for jobs.

The second Intern has successfully started his placement at All Hallows Catholic College and has been learning new tasks with the support of his job coach. Unfortunately, he has to miss several days of placement and we are delighted that further funding has been secured from Access to Work for him to continue on his Supported Internship in September. He will have a full term in his placement to allow him to learn the new tasks and demonstrate his capabilities. Unfortunately, he can no longer remain on role at Park Lane School due to his age, but will transfer to Safe Opportunities so he can continue and finally complete his Supported Internship.