

# practiceplacement

November 2021

## Welcome

Hello and welcome to the first edition of our new Practice Placement newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to allow the practice placement team to keep Practice Educators (PE's) and student paramedics informed about practice placement.

This newsletter will also give our partner universities the opportunity to give Practice Educators an insight into the current areas of practice and skills being taught.

## Message from Interim Head of Education – Paula Windsor

Hello my name is Paula Windsor, it is a pleasure to be able to contribute to this first edition of our student and practice educator newsletter.

We hope that this Newsletter will support us all to keep connected and updated on current and future events, a resource for information from both a Learner and Practice Educator perspective, and a forum for you to share good practice. One of the biggest challenges in any role or function, is communication the onus however is on you all to read and contribute to it!!

This past year has certainly been a challenge for us all, trying to balance the needs of an emergency service, COVID social distancing and reduction in placement capacity, whilst this is ongoing we must ensure a focus on supporting Practice Educators to be able to support students who are in placement or on internal pathways to ensure a quality learning environment.

As a placement and education provider for 5 Universities and over 800 students, from both direct entry and internal development programmes including the new apprenticeship, the Placement and Learning and Development teams are kept very busy. Whether you are a Practice Educator or student you are integral to our professions future and transformation to be able to deliver what we need to within the NHS long term plan and people plans, you are key. We very much look forward to seeing your contributions and for us to take steps forward together to ensure a good experience for all.

## Resources

On the SWAST Intranet you will find a Practice Educator page that has useful resources that you may find helpful.

Resources that can be found on this page are -

- Practice Education Handbooks
- PE Forms – Action Plans, Student Support Referral, PE Handover Log.
- Trust Guidance for PE's – Who can give what, Practice Placement Policy.
- HCPC links – Standards of Education and Training, Conduct and Ethics for Students.

## In this Issue –

- Meet the team
- VR and SIM
- Social Media and Contact us
- Outstanding Practice Educator Award

## Students Booking Sick

A reminder to all students that if you are sick and not attending placement then please can you inform ROC via the Sickness line. Otherwise the Operations Office (OO) will try to make contact to perform welfare call. If the OO is unable to make contact then someone will drive to your address to ensure you are ok.

A reminder to all Practice Educators (PE) that if a student who is allocated for a shift with yourself does not arrive then please inform the duty OO to ensure a welfare is completed.

# Meet the Team



## Paula Windsor – Interim Head of Education

I graduated from the first Paramedic degree hosted by Sheffield University in 2000, becoming 1 of 8 paramedic graduates in the country, I must say it wasn't an easy transition and I was held in contempt by many, perhaps hard to imagine in these current times where the only way to become a paramedic is to hold a degree. However we know challenges remain, what I learnt was it is how we deal with them that matters. For me these challenges made me stronger and determined—, there was never a point when my commitment to work on ambulance faltered, they shaped me and my career. I have now been employed as a Paramedic for 21 years and have had the privilege to have held many roles notwithstanding being a paramedic and mentor to many students, team leader of the first 'graduate mentor vehicles', critical care, and leadership roles. On reflection right from the start of my career journey I have either been one or been involved in supporting student Paramedics. and I continue to be so proud to work in an Ambulance Service and privileged in my current role as Interim Head of Education and Professional Development. My role is vast and varied from heading up the Learning and Development team which includes the CPD, TEL and Practice Placement teams, I am a strategic commander and work nationally with Health Education England and the National Education Network for Ambulance Services to drive change and transform.

## Partner Universities



## Emma Whitcombe – Learning and Development Manager

Hi, I am Emma. I am Learning and Development Manager responsible for Practice Placement, CPD and TEL (Technology Enhanced Learning). I joined the L&D team in January of this year having worked for the last 6 years within HART, based in Bristol. I started my career with West Midlands Ambulance Service in 2010 and worked for a short time with London Ambulance Service before joining SWAST in 2014. During my time in HART I qualified as a Swift Water Rescue Instructor and worked in both the HART Lead Paramedic and HART Team Leader roles. For many years I have championed the development of simulation and the progression of training/education within HART, helping to create and facilitate multiagency simulations, as well as develop the simulation suite at NBOC. I am proud to work as a manager within the SWAST with an emphasis on healthcare and education, and passionate about progressive, new ways of working and championing inclusivity at every level. A bit about me personally... I love food, family and films (In that order). I enjoy anything creative and walking/hiking (mostly so I can eat more food ☺) with my husband and our very active dog, Woody.



## Marie Knowles – Practice Placement Team Leader/ PPC Plymouth

I have worked for the Trust for 20 years in a variety of roles within the People and Culture Directorate. Starting within the HR department as an HR assistant, I moved on to Recruitment Manager for 8 years, and on to Workforce Coordinator working with a team to manage placements for the OU Student Paramedic programme and then on to Practice Placement Coordinator in 2015.

I live in Exeter, but travel visiting stations across the patch to meet practice educators face to face and be there for any queries or concerns.



## Nicola Shepard – Practice Placement Team Leader/ PPC UoG

I joined Gloucestershire Ambulance service at the minimum recruitment age of 21 as a care Technician, in 2004 I progressed to Technician and then in 2007 I qualified as a Paramedic. I started on a DCA but moved onto a RRV full time which I thoroughly enjoyed. I was successful in application to the Practice Placement Coordinator role in 2019. I enjoy working closely with the students at the grassroots of their journey with SWASFT and now starting to see those students recruited as NQPs frontline. To follow and be involved in their journey feels a great privilege. I live in Gloucestershire but looking forward to becoming a more visual presence on stations across the BNSSG, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire areas to meet Practice Educators and students face to face for any queries, concerns and support.

**James Buckley – PPC UWE**

I joined the Ambulance Service Back in 2005 as part of the High Dependency Unit (HDU) team, assisting the Bristol Children's Hospital in emergency Paediatric retrievals. I graduated as a Paramedic in 2013 after completing the four year OU course, initially working on DCAs but eventually moving across to the RRV team which I found challenging yet rewarding.

I became part of the practice placement team which I feel very privileged to be part of, all of whom are dedicated in assisting both practice educators and students throughout the three years it takes for the students to become qualified paramedics.

**Jess Eddy – PPC UWE**

I returned to Bristol following training in the West Midlands and joined the trust in 2018 as an NQP. Prior to training as a Paramedic, I was a qualified paediatric nurse and worked in a number of different departments at the RUH for 5 years, 3 of which I spent in A&E. I have mentored both nursing students and paramedic students and have always really enjoyed playing a part in that person's career path. I recently joined the practice placement team in 2021, and I am really looking forward to working with students through their time with SWAST & continuing to support my practice educator colleagues on the road.

**Sian Airey – PPC BU**

I joined SWAST in 2015 as the Operations Coordinator for Bath and South Wiltshire. I thoroughly enjoyed supporting the Operations Manager and OO Team with the busy day to day running of the locality.

I left just after reshaping operations concluded in order to home school my son for a year - long before home schooling was the norm!

Now, as a Practice Placement Coordinator I will be looking after our BU students as well as supporting the Dorset Practice Educators. I am looking forward to getting out and about to meet them all.

**Mike Page – PPC UoG**

I joined Avon Ambulance Service in 2005 on Patient Transport Service as an Ambulance Care Assistant from here I progressed into the role of Emergency Care Assistance based within Gloucestershire.

From the ECA role I became an internal Student Paramedic through SWAST with the Open University. Since qualifying as a Paramedic I have had the opportunity of being a Practice Educator for internal and external students. In January 2021 I took the opportunity to join the Practice Placement Team working for the University of Gloucestershire students.



## **Wendy Pearce – Learning & Development Officer/ HEE Paramedic Ambassador**

Salisbury born and bred, I have worked for the ambulance service for the last 11 years. Like Paula, I graduated from the same university and was the last cohort to achieve the same B.Med.Sci (Hons). I have recently achieved my MSc in Practice Development – Enhancing Paramedic Practice and I am working towards my PGCE.

I joined as an ECA in 2009 and went on to complete the OU degree and qualified as a Paramedic in 2015. I became a mentor shortly after graduating and pulled on both my ECA skill set and University Education. 2 years ago I was successful in securing a role within Learning and Development.



## **Working alongside us**

### **Jennings Mitchell – University Liaison Officer**



At the age of 29 I joined West Country Ambulance Service as a direct entry Trainee Technician. Three years later, in 2008, I became a Paramedic, and after five years in this role (in which I mentored several Nursing and Paramedic students) I was successful in an appointment to the South Devon Learning & Development team as an LDO.

In my current role as University Liaison Officer I am a full-time member of the People & Culture directorate, working closely with students and staff from our partner universities Gloucester, UWE, Bournemouth and Plymouth, to ensure that there are close links and effective processes in every aspect of our mutually vital relationships.

### **Lizzie Ryan – Learning Development Officer/ PE Update Day**

I have worked for the Trust for 15 years. I joined the Trust as Head of Education for West Country and moved to the role of Training Manager when the Trust merged with Dorset Ambulance Service. I then became the Education Business Manager, supporting the move to high education, and carried out this role for 10 years. I now work as a Learning and Development Officer and support the Trust delivering the University Modules in Mentorship and Clinical Supervision, and an OfQual qualification in the Award in Education and Training. I live in Plymouth but travel across the Trust to support the Trusts staff in their developmental aspirations in HE.



## Cumbria Apprenticeship Programme

Our internal paramedic pathway is now via an apprenticeship programme hosted by Cumbria University. We currently have two cohorts up and running with a further cohort on their access course in readiness to start early next year. Apprentice students must have a minimum of 400 hours per year of supervised practice. Supervised practice essentially means that they must work a 1-1 shift with a Band 6 paramedic or at least NQP 2. It does not mean they must work 400 hours with their designated practice educator. The students are also given five days placement per year in addition to their frontline ambulance shifts, which include, HART, Tiverton Urgent Care Centre, Specialist paramedic shifts and coming soon – Virtual Reality and Simulation sessions.

Please have a look at the dedicated pages on the CPD website for further information.

[Click here for the Practice Educator & Student pages](#)

## Other News

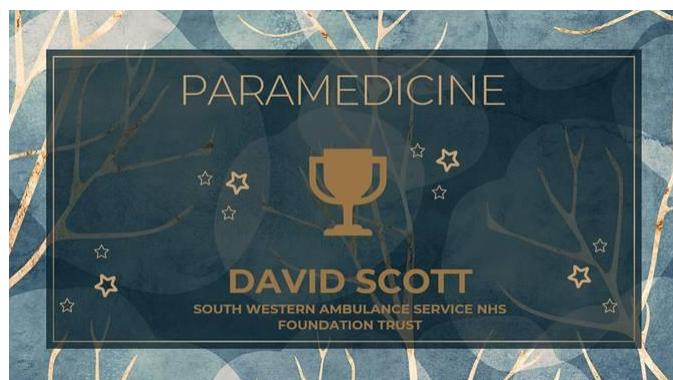
Recently David Scott was recognised by the University of Plymouth in their School of Health Professions Practice Educator Awards. The University had seen a record number of nominations this year across all seven health care professions within the School.

We delighted to say that you were selected and announced at our online celebration event as the overall winner for Paramedicine, Congratulations!

Paula Windsor, Head of Education said

*Dear David, a huge congratulations on behalf of the education and placement team. The input and support you give to our students, growing our future and supporting the continuum of excellent patient care is recognised and we would like to extend our thanks to you for all that you do.*

*Well done!*



# VR and SIM

Recently the University of Gloucestershire (UoG) students had the opportunity to take part in Virtual Reality and Simulation training which was delivered by the Technologies and Enhanced Learning (TEL) team and Learning Development Offices (LDO).

The sessions ran over two days and delivered a range of situations and scenarios that a first year student may encounter while on placement. The scenarios delivered the student the opportunity to use skills while assisting the paramedic clinician in delivering the appropriate care and treatment for the patient.

The feedback we have received so far indicates that the sessions were well received and many of the students felt so immersed in the scenarios that they forgot that it was not real.

*“Having seen the level of simulation provided for the first years I strongly believe this would be a valuable way for the third years to cover these essential competencies. Doing this during placement time not only ensures they have met competencies but also maintains a level of parity for the students in simulation which adheres to the trusts policies for some of the most invasive of procedures.”*



## Contact

There are many ways that we try to communicate with our Educators and Students, here are the many ways we will try to engage to keep you briefed on all things relating to students –

- Emails
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Newsletter



<mailto:Placementcoordinators@swasft.nhs.uk>



[SWASFT – Practice Placement](#)



[swast\\_practiceplacement](#)



[@swastplacement](#)

We encourage you to follow our pages, with a friendly reminder to ensure you adhere to the Trust Social Media Policy.

# Outstanding Practice Educator Awards

The Outstanding Practice Educator Award is an opportunity for students to nominate their educator as we look to honour and acknowledge a practice educator for each cohort of all of our partner universities. We hear of many amazing stories of practice educators going above and beyond to help support you as students. As a practice placement team, we want to celebrate the hard work and continued support that your practice educators give you every time you step in to a placement setting.

Due to the various HEI programmes we support, we will be hosting nominations twice a year, giving everyone the opportunity to nominate.

Congratulations to the winners for this round -

- Ben Alford
- Lewis Hare
- David Scott
- Samuel West
- Daniel White
- Edward Hill
- Ross Andrews

Some of the feedback that was given about the winners –

*“After one particular difficult job, he made sure my wellbeing was ok by checking up on me for a few days after.”*

*“My mentor has been amazing all year round. Lewis goes above and beyond to constantly teach me when I am out on the road! He goes over ever job once we have finished and if there is anything I do not understand he will explain this to me.”*

*“He is an inspirational mentor who is always extremely professional and helpful, he has aided my educational and practical progress throughout my time of placement, he is always willing to go above and beyond ensuring that all my questions and queries are addressed. He has even come into work on his days off, taking time away from his family to help me prepare for OSCEs.”*

*“I would like to highlight that all of this is done without thanks; he does not seek the praise or recognition of others but does this out of the kindness of his own heart.”*

The winners will be contacted shortly to be informed of their prize and certificate.

Please keep an eye out in the New Year for the opening of nominations for those January and February cohorts.

Thank you for the nominations from all those who sent us entries. We really enjoyed reading your nominations and experiences with our PE's but unfortunately the panel were only able to select a few winners.

# WELCOME BACK TO OUR STUDENTS!



Students from all of our partner universities (UWE, Gloucester, Bournemouth & Plymouth) are back out on placement with their allocated Educators alongside our internal Cumbria apprentices. Students are being placed right across the Trust so it is likely you will see them or be allocated a student from any one of these Universities. Please take a look at our Practice Educator resource page on the CPD website for helpful information relating to each University or contact the placement co-ordinator team for advice at:

[placementcoordinator@SWAST.nhs.uk](mailto:placementcoordinator@SWAST.nhs.uk)

