



Media information

For immediate use

Congratulations to the latest graduates from Project SEARCH

East Ayrshire's Project SEARCH interns have successfully graduated from the programme after 36 weeks of practical work experience in University Hospital Crosshouse.

Now in its fifth year, Project SEARCH aims to help young people with learning disabilities and / or those on the autistic spectrum find and keep a job. It is a partnership between NHS Ayrshire & Arran, East Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire College and other partners.

The programme was first set up in the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio and began as a result of a need to recruit staff for jobs that had a high staff turnover. The eight interns embarked on the 800-hour placement, and gained practical experience in a number of areas of the hospital. They worked for a total of ten weeks in each area.

Patricia Leiser, Human Resources Director, said: "It's always wonderful to see the Project SEARCH interns graduate with us. The experience and skills they gain during their placements is a great boost to their confidence and very often helps them to gain employment. We are proud to be a part of such a successful, inclusive project."

The interns were placed in real life work environments and took part in regular progress meetings to define their career goal and plan necessary steps to achieve it.



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At their graduation ceremony on Friday 9 June each intern received a certificate of completion and a gift voucher, kindly donated by Ayrshire College.

Any employers who are interested in recruiting a SEARCH intern should email sandramurphy1@nhs.net.

Ends

Date of release: Wednesday 26 July 2017

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Our graduates with their award certificates (left-to-right: John Priest – Kilmarnock, Matthew Howard – Kilmarnock, Steven McCulloch – Kilmaurs, Stephen Gallagher – Kilmarnock, Gemma McCulloch – Mauchline, Emily Robb – Stewarton, Lisa McGrath – Kilmarnock, Amy Gill – Crookedholm.

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