

Special Edition Good News Stories:

A Celebration of Practice Education in Salford ASC

2024-25 was an incredibly successful year for Practice Education in Salford. As an organisation we want to recognise and celebrate all the hard work, commitment and dedication shown by our practice educators, mentors, supervisors and teams.

We are fortunate to have a strong multidisciplinary workforce in Salford Adult Social Care (ASC). Over the last academic year our teams, together with our social work colleagues in Mental Health, have supported students studying a variety of different degree courses including Social Work, Nursing and Allied Health professions.

In addition to supporting students on traditional undergraduate and postgraduate placements we also supported several individuals who were on degree apprenticeships and those who were returning to practice.

In Salford Adults, we are part of a consortium and work closely with key partners of the Greater Manchester Social Work Academy (GMSWA) to provide good quality practice learning experiences for social work students studying at:

University of Salford

Manchester Metropolitan University

University of Greater Manchester (Bolton)

University of Manchester

These valuable placement opportunities support students to achieve their goals and aspirations and help them to develop key knowledge and skills for their future careers. Practice Educators play an essential role in teaching, facilitating, supporting and assessing the learning of practice on placements. Practice Educators play an instrumental role in promoting the strengths of students to flourish, grow and develop into qualified practitioners.

“To each and every practice educator, past and present, you are amazing! Your work is seen, recognised and valued. You are all stars, and we thank you for your contribution to practice development in Salford.”

Feedback for our Practice Educators

Please take some time to read some of the wonderful messages and compliments our practice educators have received over the last 12 months and join us in celebrating the wonderful work that goes on in Salford. The below word cloud demonstrates the high regard our colleagues are held in by our students:



Message from Martin Sexton

Principal Social Worker, Head of Social Work Standards & Quality Assurance

As we reflect on the incredible work being done across our organisation, we want to take a moment to extend thanks for your dedication and unwavering support to social work students.

Your role as a practice educator is vital, not only in shaping the next generation of social workers but also in upholding the values and good practice standards of our profession. Your commitment to mentoring and nurturing students through their learning journey makes a lasting impact, not just on them, but on the individuals, families, and communities they will go on to support.

We recognise the time, energy, and emotional investment it takes to be a Practice Educator. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for the compassion and professionalism you have brought to the role.

We want to celebrate and highlight the importance Practice Educators have in our workforce. We truly hope you retain the role and continue to support and inspire other students and learners on-going.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Social Work Practice Education



During the 2024- 25 academic year ASC supported 11 social work students. They were supported by the below amazing Practice Educators:

- **Megan Newell - Older Adults CMHT**
- **Tendai Nkomo - Broughton**
- **Paddy McSweeney - Transitions**
- **Sally Adams – Sensory**
- **Nafisah Saleem - Intermediate Care**
- **Stef Smith - LD**
- **Amber Barber - LD**
- **Victoria Poole - LD**
- **Jodi Carter - Living Well**
- **Sophie Jinks - Living Well**
- **Rabiya Ayyub - Hospital Stroke & Neuro**

Here are some of the lovely messages they received:

My placement has been a fantastic experience, with learning opportunities which has helped improve my practice and contributed positively to my professional development and future practice

The PE was attentive in providing opportunities for me as a learner and was accommodating regarding my learning support needs. They were flexible and considerate in enhancing the learning experience.

X has been absolutely amazing throughout my journey. She has provided me with such good advice, support and resources that have developed my skill and knowledge base.

My PE is patient, kind and professional. She has motivated me to be the best person I could be whilst on placement. She is an inspiration.

My PE has supported me massively through my placement. She has been very understanding, supportive, and flexible. I have felt fully supported and encouraged. I have been able to openly share any anxieties or worries I have had and discuss them with her during supervisions.

I had an excellent experience working with my Practice Educator. She was a role model for me as I observed her working with service users, families and colleagues with a high standard of professionalism.

Living Well has been such an amazing placement to have. The team have all been extremely welcoming and open to help at any moment, they are all so caring. I had the opportunity to shadow various professional backgrounds and gather a varied base of expertise and skills. My practice educator, as well as various other peers, have been so supportive within my journey. The workload was positively challenging, with the appropriate means of support if I ever struggled.

Everyone who worked for Sensory Team was always very supportive and provided advice at all times. Every time I have asked to shadow they have accepted without hesitation.

I had two members of the team as my practice educators. They were both so supportive of me as a student and always willing to help when needed. They both pushed me to become a better practitioner and worked with me based on my style of learning. I built a positive relationship with both people.

It was a very remarkable experience working with the Stroke Team at the hospital. Being in that environment was more than just for learning purposes. I understood the real-life experience of supporting vulnerable people through a crucial stage in their lives. My supervisor helped me to reflect on my complex cases to build my confidence and to identify my strengths and weaknesses

The 4 members of the Transitions Team were skilled, knowledgeable and committed to their roles. They were diligent workers and dedicated. Each professional was inspiring and committed to the support and valuing others. It was wonderful to observe the strengths of the team as a whole and was an experience I have learned so much from.



Learning Disability Nurses

Several placements were for students completing the Integrated Social Work and Learning Disability Nursing (IPLD) programme at the University of Salford. The team also supported several Spoke placements for Student Nursing Associates. Thanks to the below LD nurses who acted as Nursing Practice Educators and Placements Supervisors and were absolutely brilliant!

- [Samantha Horridge](#)
- [Holly Nicholson](#)
- [Jessica O'Neil](#)
- [Jenny Price](#)

On-Site Supervisors

Some of this years Practice Educators worked in tandem with Onsite Supervisors (OSS) who provided direct day-to-day support and mentoring of students. Their input is very much valued and appreciated. A special mention goes to:

- [Kaye Cooke – Sensory Team](#)
- [Oluwabunmi Asaolu – LD](#)

Practice Educator Stage 2 Mentors



Several members of staff also acted as mentors to colleagues who were completing additional practice education training. We are very grateful for their experience, commitment, and dedication in championing Practice Education. Their on-going commitment to Practice Education and work as a regular mentor for social workers completing their PEPS Stage 1 and 2 qualifications is truly inspiring. Thanks for all your amazing work!

- [Dee Trainer - Prestwich Hospital](#)
- [Stef Smith - LD](#)



Other Student Placements

In addition to traditional Social Work undergraduate and postgraduate final year 100-day placements, several individuals have supported other students with successful placements. In Salford Adults we work closely with our partners of the Greater Manchester Social Work Academy (GMSWA) to provide key opportunities for practice learning.

Return to Social Work Placements (RtSW)

The University of Manchester offer a Return to Social Work course for those who have previously registered as a social worker but haven't been registered with Social Work England for 2-5 years who wish to practice again. Our organisation and teams have been working partnership with the university to offer RtSW placements which are 30 days in length. A special thanks to our recent RtSW supervisors

- [Jennie Melville - Eccles Team](#)
- [Margaret McClean - Intermediate Care](#)

Contrasted Learning Experience (CLE) Frontline placements

Each year we provide support to our colleagues in Salford Childrens with contrasted learning experiences in Salford Adults for their students completing Childrens Frontline programmes. These placements help to strengthen our commitment for partnership working and the promotion and strengths of a 'Think Family' approach. A big thanks to our recent supervisors for CLE frontline placements

- [Hannah Ford – Safeguarding Team](#)
- [Zainab Salami – Walkden](#)

Degree Apprenticeships

A big thank you to all the staff who have supported our degree apprentices by acting as mentors, providing invaluable practice advice, support and guidance. You are all amazing and your support helps us to provide career development opportunities for ASC colleagues.

THANK YOU

To all the practice educators, mentors, supervisors
and teams who have supported students in 2024-25
you are amazing!!



If you are interested in carrying out the role of practice educator or supervisor for a social work student on placement, please contact aslearninganddevelopment@nca.nhs.uk for further information.