



NEWS LETTER

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SKILLS ACADEMY

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Academy Highlights - March 2026

Ealing Takeover Day The Council Day



The NWL Academy was proud to attend and actively support care-experienced young people at a recent Ealing Council Takeover Day, an event that gave dozens of young people the chance to step into the roles of senior council decision-makers.

Throughout the day, the Academy worked alongside participants to champion their voices, build confidence, and help ensure their lived experiences shaped meaningful conversations. Our presence focused on empowering young people, helping them understand how local decisions are made, and encouraging them to share ideas that could improve services for care leavers across the borough.

During the event on Friday 21 November, the young people were invited to “take charge” of Ealing Council, stepping into roles including Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for a Fairer Start, and Chief Executive. They worked directly with senior leaders from housing, regeneration, HR, SEND and inclusion, and other key services—gaining real insight into how decisions impact local communities.

The day also brought together partners from the NHS, ICB, Department for Education and the wider community sector. The Academy collaborated closely with these partners to support care-experienced young people, answer their questions, and provide guidance on pathways into health and care careers.

NWL Community Engagement: In-Reach and Outreach Activities

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting communities across North West London, the Academy continues to create meaningful opportunities for care-experienced young people through a combination of in-reach and outreach activities. Our aim is to reduce barriers, build confidence, and provide clear pathways into roles within health and social care.

In January, we delivered a tailored Explore & Inform session for care-experienced young people interested in the Volunteering-to-Career pathway at CNWL. The session gave participants a supportive space to learn about the programme, explore expectations of volunteering roles, and understand how these opportunities can lead to long-term careers in the NHS. They were able to meet Academy and CNWL colleagues, ask questions, and hear about real examples of both clinical and non-clinical career journeys.

The session generated strong interest, and we are pleased that many of the young people were invited to the assessment day in February. This marks an important step in helping them move closer to meaningful volunteering and employment opportunities.

We feel privileged to have engaged with such inspiring individuals. Their insights and experiences continue to shape how we design inclusive, trauma-informed, and effective engagement across NW London. Through this work, the Academy remains committed to offering supportive pathways that recognise potential and empower care-experienced young people to progress confidently into the health and social care workforce.

Morley College, Strategic Update January 2026

The Academy attended a Morley College event where the proposed 2026–2030 strategic plan was outlined. Education remains the college’s top priority, with a strong emphasis on curriculum innovation and industry-aligned learning to better support and engage underserved groups.

Morley College reaffirmed its mission to empower communities through inclusive, purpose-driven education and to act as a local anchor across its four campuses. Strategic priorities also include strengthening commercial activity and financial resilience through selective enterprise, improved use of space and operational efficiencies.

For the Academy, the event offered valuable insight into Morley’s direction and highlighted potential areas for collaboration, particularly around curriculum alignment, employer engagement and progression pathways..



West London Youth Careers Summit – Ealing

The Academy attended The West London Youth Careers Summit was a key event focused on addressing youth unemployment and improving career development opportunities across the subregion. The summit convened a diverse group of stakeholders, including employers, youth employment service providers, career leaders, senior leadership teams from local schools and colleges, and representatives from local councils. The primary objective was to collaborate on creating a road map that supports young people in accessing meaningful employment opportunities, thereby boosting productivity and economic growth in West London.

Activities we participated in:

- Networking and Collaboration – we facilitated connections between Trust employers and education providers to align skills development within health/care
- Workshops and Panel Discussions – the sessions focused on practical strategies for reducing youth unemployment, enhancing employability skills, and promoting inclusive hiring practices in health/care
- Roadmap Development – we initiated discussions on a long-term action plan to support youth career pathways, including apprenticeships, internships, and vocational training opportunities across health/care



London Skills Roundtable event

The London Adult Social Care Skills Roundtable helped shape future workforce plans in NWL. It highlighted major challenges—vacancies, zero-hour contracts, and low qualification levels—and stressed the need for up skilling, reskilling, and digital skills. The discussion aligned local priorities with national strategies and reinforced the role of Neighborhood Health pilots in connecting health and social care.

The roundtable strengthened collaboration with LSIPs, the GLA and Skills for Care, identifying joint opportunities to influence funding and policy. It also introduced the Care Workforce Pathway to support recruitment, retention and career progression.

The Academy committed to sharing best practice, developing leadership and innovation skills, and identifying key investment areas. Overall, the session created a shared vision for workforce transformation across NW London..

Shaw Trust MSK event

The Academy delivered a bespoke employability Readiness Workshop in Brentford specifically for participants with MSK conditions, on behalf of Shaw Trust. The session focused on NHS career pathways, inclusivity, and the availability of reasonable adjustments in the workplace. Attendance was excellent, with 22 participants, which is significantly higher than the usual number Shaw Trust sees for similar sessions. Participants were highly engaged, and several expressed immediate interest in pursuing next steps: one requested support with a job application and another began exploring volunteering opportunities.



NWL Academy Health & Social Care Skills Update

Greater London Authority funding for the NWL Academy will cease in March 26, however , we remain committed to supporting local people access Health and care careers and enabling stakeholders fulfill their anchors commitments. We are delighted to remain committed to our mission and purpose and the Academy will be continuing for an additional 12 months. We will be working on priorities with partners following extensive feedback and input and developing our objectives for 26/27 over the next month..



"It has been very easy to work with Clodagh and Nat in aligning on shared purpose and collaborating. The academy have supported activities including the Health Equity Summit and regular attendance at the Health Equity Board. We have collaborated to align the academy initiatives with other aligned initiatives such as WorkWell. Due to the significant impact of initiatives such as the work experience project, the academy has been supported to successfully extend this initiative to have even further impact for an even larger number of young people in NWL"

Larry Koyama Head Wider Determinants of Health, North West London ICB

"The connection and working with the Academy has brought many benefits to providers in terms of workforce. As systems we have worked well together with other stakeholders also in Health and Social care education to address barriers for people trying to enter the sector and to address skills gaps that the academy has helped to fill"

Selena Docherty, Locality manager North West London Skills for Care

"NWL academy is a great example of knowing the needs of their care leaver community and creating a unique and sustainable initiative to support them. This has a meaning impact on the community members, the organisations with NWL and the larger NHS workforce of the future"

Sakina Jaffrey, Supply Specialist and Registered Nurse, NHS England



Talent & Recruitment Hub

The Talent and Recruitment Hub were delighted to support the recruitment of a Imge into a volunteering role with the Liaison Psychiatry team at CNWL – a community mental health trust in NWL which has been supportive of the initiative to support local people.

Within six months, Imge has successfully progressed into paid employment, having been offered a Bank HCA position at St Charles Hospital. This outcome demonstrates the Hub's ability to support each candidate's onward journey, while positively influencing attraction and retention rates, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes.

Supporting Displaced International Care Workers

The NWL Health and Social Care Academy is working with the Regional Lead Local Authority to help international care workers who have lost their roles due to unethical practices or sponsor licence issues.

Join the team in creating ethical recruitment pathways and offering skilled workers a fresh start in a supportive environment. If you want to recruit via our pool of displaced workers, email

chelwest.nwlirsubegional@nhs.net

NWL Academy joined Centrepoin't's JETT to Success Event to support young people with clear information on training, accredited qualifications and pathways into employment. We provided tailored, accessible guidance to attendees from diverse backgrounds and connected with employers to explore collaborative opportunities.

Key Highlights

- Shared training and progression routes with young people.
- Offered tailored support for varying experience and language levels.
- Promoted inclusive access to education and skills development.
- Strengthened partnerships to support pathways into work.

Impact

- Increased awareness of accessible training and employment opportunities.
- Boosted confidence through direct guidance and signposting to learning resources.
- Supported a more inclusive, coordinated approach to workforce development.

Notices

CPD Spotlight

The Academy recently hosted two impactful CPD sessions, which brought together an impressive 426 participants from across the social care sector. These sessions provided valuable learning opportunities for both new and experienced practitioners, helping to strengthen clinical knowledge and confidence across the workforce. The training focused on PEG-RIG and catheterisation skills, two essential areas of practice that are increasingly important in community-based care settings. The sessions were expertly delivered by Giovanna Rotundi, Nurse Education Lead, whose guidance and practical expertise were highly appreciated by attendees. Feedback from participants highlighted the relevance of the content, the clarity of instruction, and the importance of continued professional development in improving the quality of care. The high attendance demonstrates a strong appetite for accessible, high-quality training that supports safe and effective practice across the sector.

Find the Academy at the Morley College Careers fair on 4th March

Academy Podcast: Assemble You



Coming soon! Join us for an exciting new podcast series designed to help you grow professionally. We'll dive into:

- Transferable Skills
- Understanding Pay, Bands, Years, Benefits, and Location – NHS Agenda for Change.

Register now and don't miss out!

Share the knowledge - share the link!



Work Experience

North West London HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SKILLS ACADEMY

Work Experience PLUS!
PARTNER WITH US

<p>Do you want to offer experience in care via a non-traditional model?</p>	<p>Do you want learners to be equipped and 'ready' to join you on these experiences?</p>
<p>Do you want to improve your CQC rating in relation to learner experiences?</p>	<p>Do you want to attract local people into your workforce?</p>

We can help you.
Be part of the NWL Academy Social Care Work Experience PLUS!

We prepare learners for work experience by getting them informed, prepared and ready to join you in the workplace for 2 days – the remaining 8 days of the programme are delivered and managed by the NWL Health & Social Care Skills Academy at no cost to you.

Our model helps you:

<p>Attract local people into Social Care</p>	<p>Offer safe, meaningful experience in your setting</p>	<p>Recruit from a pool of prepared, motivated learners</p>
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Join the drop in session here Join meeting on Teams