APPLYING FOR THE SPECIALIST COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING (HEALTH VISITING) PROGRAMME

To increase your chances of gaining a place on the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) programme you could consider the following:

Thinking about applying for a health visiting training programme

- Contact your University and speak to the SCPHN (Health Visiting) educational lead explaining that you are interested in health visiting for an informal discussion;
- To find your local University offering the Health Visiting programme, use the following link: [http://www.nhs-careers.nhs.uk/details/coursefinder/health-visiting.aspx](http://www.nhs-careers.nhs.uk/details/coursefinder/health-visiting.aspx)
- If you are unsure about your educational credits, contact your local University to review your academic credits and if necessary consider taking a module (relevant to the role as a health visitor), to gain extra academic credits;
- If you have been out of education for a while, consider taking a study skills module to develop your existing skills;
- Make sure your portfolio is up to date with relevant reflective diaries demonstrating an understanding of the role you are applying for and appropriate objectives on your Professional Development Plan;
- Update yourself on current policy relevant to Specialist Community Public Health Nursing Practice;
- Go to your local University’s website to see if you could attend a SCPHN Open Event at the University;
- [http://www.rcn.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/411737/Public_Health_Nursing_Health_visiting.pdf](http://www.rcn.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/411737/Public_Health_Nursing_Health_visiting.pdf)
- Read relevant professional and research journals;
- Update your IT skills (e.g. Microsoft Word, Excel);

Getting ready to apply for a health visiting training programme

- Apply to the NHS organisation where you would like to train. Go to NHS Jobs website ([http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/cgi-bin/advsearch](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/cgi-bin/advsearch)) to see which NHS organisations are advertising for student HV posts (even if it is not where you want to work);
- Register on NHS jobs and put in search feed for ‘Student Health Visiting Training’ to get alerts into your email when local Trusts are advertising (as Trusts have different timelines for recruitment);
- It is important to read the Job Description & Person Specification carefully for the role in order to tailor your application and show you have the skills needed for the job. The online application is your way of selling yourself, so include everything you think is relevant as a demonstration of the skills and personal qualities required for the health visitor role;
- Your application must demonstrate knowledge of the health visitor profession and role. An excellent way to gather this information is by speaking to/shadowing health visitors in your locality and getting a first-hand account of the role;
- Your supporting statement (additional information) gives you the opportunity to display your strengths, suitability for the programme and the profession:
  - Structure your supporting statement by using the headings in the person specification to ensure you cover all aspects;
  - Provide evidence of relevant experiences/skills;
  - Demonstrate knowledge and a strong commitment to the profession;
  - Demonstrate the relevant academic ability;
  - Consider personal and professional attributes required and how you demonstrate these;
- Submit your application via NHS Jobs to the relevant organisation or follow the local process advised by the University
- Successful applicants can expect a joint interview with the Service Provider/Trust lead and their preferred University representative.
Useful websites

- NHS Jobs (for advertised student health visitor courses) [http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/]
- Flying start [http://www.flyingstartengland.nhs.uk/career-pathways/cvsandinterviews]
- NHS jobs (advice on applying for courses) [http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/advice/success_applics.html]
- NHS West Midlands [healthvisiting@westmidlands.nhs.uk](mailto:healthvisiting@westmidlands.nhs.uk)
- NHS East Midlands [http://www.eastmidlands.nhs.uk/education-commissioning-unit/health-visiting/]
- NHS Northwest [http://www.northwest.nhs.uk]