



MEET THE CHAIR SPECIALIST COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE TRAILBLAZER

We spoke with Amanda Yates, North Somerset Community Partnership, who is chair of the Level 7 Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) Trailblazer group.

So, Amanda, please tell us a bit about your day job?

I am the Health Visitor Lead for North Somerset Community Partnership which involves working with the teams to ensure that the service continues to be responsive to the needs of children and families in North Somerset and sees children achieve positive health outcomes from the care we deliver.

Why did you step up to be the Chair?

The then secretary of the United Kingdom Standing Conference on SCPHN Education told us that there was going to be an employer led apprenticeship developed and this would be the only way that we would be able to train the workforce of the future.

Joy, who is Programme Lead and Senior Lecturer at the University of the West of England encouraged me to support writing to the Institute to begin the process and before I knew it I was the chair!

I have a passion to make sure that we have the right training in place for the profession and that we grow SCPHN students that are ready for the 21st century workplace.

The SCPHN apprenticeship standard has now been approved for delivery. Congratulations. Looking back, what were the challenges?

- Trying to get the groups understanding that School Nursing and Health Visiting were not different enough to warrant having their distinct parts of the apprenticeship.

- Getting understanding and agreement on when the end point assessment should be undertaken was interesting. The EPA is an integral part of the apprenticeship process but you can become a SCPHN practitioner in the eyes of the NMC once you are registered with them. We sought a lot of clarification about this with some letter writing and discussion with our relationship managers, but the Institute and NMC worked together to agree a way forward.
- Keeping on the job and off the job clear in our heads when professionally our students would be considered off the job, the Institute says the opposite!
- Getting consensus across groups and professions that are similar yet not the same and making sure that we all got a bit of what we needed without making the document too long.

What achievements are you most proud of?

Achieving the completion and submission on time and being able to support a fantastic group of professionals to remain engaged in the process to the end.

It's been brilliant working with so many informed and passionate colleagues.

What tips do you have for other trailblazer Chairs?

Use your relationship managers, they are great! Ensure that you follow the guidance of your liaison at the Institute as they will be able to ensure that you don't get too many questions sent back to you.

Keep to time and use teleconference in between meetings to keep people up to date.

Don't be afraid of using small working groups if people can get together outside of the meetings to take things forward.

As organisations are starting to implement this standard, what challenges do you foresee?

From an employer perspective there is a need to create apprenticeship roles within an SCPHN workforce that have not previously been there. Employers are now to be fully responsible for the salary element of the SCPHN training, which could be a challenge for some employers who have an established workforce in place.

I do not profess to be an expert about University process and protocol but I believe that if there is a need to modify their current programmes, approval for any modifications will need to be agreed internally as well as externally by the NMC prior to delivery.

Do you have any top tips for others considering implementing this apprenticeship?

We have 12 months to go before the apprenticeship comes into play, review your skills mix think about being able to re-imagine vacancy to support this. Work with your organisation's lead on apprenticeships to draw down the standard and fix it to your account when it's ready.

Liaise with your local university and try and make sure they are preparing to support the training.



Download the Specialist Community Public Health Nurse Standard and Assessment plan [here.](#)