**Minutes of the Cheshire & Mersey Patch Meeting – 10 August 2023**

**Present**:

Graham Breckon (Countess of Chester); Tilly Dixon (Mid Cheshire); Suzanne Ford (Mersey & West Lancashire - St Helens & Knowsley) - Chair); Natalie Hall (Alder Hey); Maureen Horrigan (Liverpool Heart and Chest); Jan Moore (Knowsley Libraries); Razia Nazir (Bridgewater Community); Tracy Owen (Mersey Care); Matthew Smith (Cheshire West and Chester)

**Apologies:**

John Gale (Mid Cheshire); Sally Starkey (Cheshire West & Chester); Susan Smith (Mid Cheshire); Alison Thornley (East Cheshire NHS).

**Review of Actions**

* JG to share presentations from wellbeing conference - **Complete**
* SS to contact Ruth Carlyle to identify local HWB champion – **Complete**

**Career Development Initiatives:**

Suzanne shared the update from Mid Cheshire.

Suzanne asked the group if they had any experience of apprentices, Maureen said they currently have an apprentice who is excellent.

Jan at Knowsley Public Libraries has two members of staff who have joined the apprenticeship scheme. Yvonne Stubbington at MWL – St Helens & Knowsley has made arrangements for them to spend a day shadowing the LKS staff at Whiston Hospital.

Suzanne mentioned the HEE Knowledge and Library Services Learning Zone, that has a page regarding recruitment and retention [Recruitment and retention | Knowledge and Library Services (hee.nhs.uk)](https://library.hee.nhs.uk/learning-academy/learning-zone/recruitment-and-retention), with a number of guides under the Retaining Staff section on training and development.

The CILIP PKSB [Professional Knowledge & Skills Base - CILIP: the library and information association](https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/PKSB?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIvKOXwP7RgAMVWpaDBx1HfwC9EAAYASAAEgL6ovD_BwE) also has useful information on professional registration and career development.

Tracy mentioned that HEE offer bursaries to support postgraduate study [Postgraduate bursaries for librarians | Knowledge and Library Services (hee.nhs.uk)](https://library.hee.nhs.uk/learning-academy/bursaries/postgraduate-bursaries-for-librarians) and learning and development bursaries [Learning and Development Bursaries | Knowledge and Library Services (hee.nhs.uk)](https://library.hee.nhs.uk/learning-academy/bursaries/learning-and-development-bursaries) (the application dates on these pages have passed but hopefully will be updated for next year).

Mid Cheshire update from Susan:

On Friday our first business & admin apprentice finished, who was the first successful Trust candidate through the Prince's Trust.  She got sweeping distinctions across the board on the apprenticeship and is now taking a year out, before starting university.

We think the programme is better for the business & admin level 3 and more applicable to the role here, it also offers local in-person connection and support for candidates.  We are reviewing whether to try a Library Level 3 apprentice and would welcome all thoughts and experience.

We are also currently looking at using Annex 21 to recruit a graduate trainee, to support guidelines and policy work in the service.  Just started to review this.  Morecambe Bay has used this model.

Susan has been seconded to work on the University of Manchester PG Cert for Clinical Data Sciences to support clinicians and librarians with programming, dashboards, ML & AI skills.  She is also the current recipient of the ALIA / HLG leadership bursary to share learning with colleagues in Australasia.

John Gale is currently on an internal intermediate leadership course at present.  Most of the team has also undertaken one of the quality improvement champion courses run by Advancing Quality on behalf of the Quality Improvement team.

**Next meeting:**

14 September 10-11am, topic is sustainability in libraries.