

# Offering work placements to local students studying health and social care

Employer:



**The Orders of St John Care**

Location:



**Wiltshire**



The Orders of St John Care Trust (OSJCT) is very proud to be able to offer work placements to students studying at local colleges and schools. We have developed good links particularly with the Wiltshire College & University Centres, where we regularly accommodate BTEC Health & Social Care students.

Students wishing to undertake their placement in an OSJCT home are required to complete an online application for the role. Once approved they must then attend an OSJCT induction session and a Dementia Friends session prior to starting their placement. This ensures that they understand what they can expect as an volunteer, what we need from them in return, and makes sure they have the appropriate information to get them started in their role.

Once students commence their placements, we make sure that they can spend time with various team members in all roles, finding out about the tasks that they are responsible for, and in doing so, are able to gain a full understanding of a care home setting.

We encourage students to ask questions, so that they can better understand how what they've learnt in college can be applied in practice. Our staff team are very proud to be able to share their skills and knowledge with the students.

As an organisation we have been very impressed with the students coming into our homes who are studying BTEC Health & Social Care. They have been well prepared, are engaged and focused and keen to learn. We are also delighted that a small number of these students have applied for and have secured job roles in our homes. One such student is Jack Lloyd who now works as a Carer at Brookside, our home in Melksham. Jack is now a dedicated and committed team member and as a result was a finalist in the Young Carer of the Year category at our 2019 Employee Awards. Jack has a clear career goal, and as an organisation we are very honoured to be able to support him on his journey to it becoming a reality.

*Words from Karen Johnson, Volunteer and Events Manager, Wiltshire OSJCT Homes*

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