

Allied Health Professionals - Useful information and links

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As key members of today’s healthcare team, allied health professionals work closely with patients, often on a one-to-one basis, helping with rehabilitation and providing treatment that helps transform people’s lives.

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Dietitians#

Dietitians aim to help everyone achieve their potential for optimum health and wellbeing. The dietetics department offers specialist nutrition and dietetic services to Airedale NHS Foundation Trust and local primary care networks.

Hospital Nutrition Support#

We are key members of the Nutrition and Hydration Group and have produced a Trust Nutrition

Policy. The dietitian is part of the Nutrition Support Team, and the wards use the MUST screening tool to identify patients at risk of malnutrition. We have regular input to the Intensive Care Unit and are an integral part of the Stroke Team.

Hospital Catering#

The dietitians have a key role in menu planning and liaising with the diet cooks about special diets. The dietetic assistant arranges meals for patients on special diets and works closely with the Catering Department to ensure all patients receive the correct diet.

Children's Services#

We care for children with a wide range of conditions such as diabetes, food allergy, renal disease, complex feeding problems and inherited metabolic disorders. Many of our clinics are multidisciplinary, with the paediatrician and dietitian working closely together. Multi-agency working is a key part of our services to children.

Diabetes#

The Trust has a Diabetes Centre, and we have input into specialist clinics for different groups, such as children and pregnant women. We also hold carbohydrate counting and insulin adjustment education groups for people with Type 1 diabetes.

In the community, we visit many of the GP Practices to provide specialist dietetic clinics or group education sessions for patients with diabetes. We work closely with the Diabetes Specialist Nurse to ensure patients get the best care.

We also deliver the X-PERT group education programme to people with Type 2 diabetes. This is a 6-week course designed to give people the knowledge, skills and confidence to manage their diabetes successfully.

Community Nutrition Support and Intermediate Care#

All patients who require enteral feeding at home or additional dietetic support post-discharge are followed up closely in the community. We can facilitate early discharge and can offer seamless, high-quality care. By providing training to key community carers, we help to ensure that patients' needs are met.

Links to Careers Advice

- [BDA – The Association of UK Dietitians](#)

Further Education / Higher Education Courses#

Students from the following universities undertake placements with Airedale NHS Foundation Trust as part of their dietetic training. The links below will take you to information about the relevant courses.

- [Leeds Beckett University](#)

Work Experience Opportunities

We offer work experience opportunities for individuals interested in a career as a dietitian. The programme will usually be one day, but we are prepared to consider placements of up to five days.

Requests for extended placements will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Work experience placements will include observing a dietitian, working with both inpatients and outpatients, and may include a mixture of adults and children.

Whilst the department is able to offer placements throughout the year, individuals should submit their applications two months in advance of their preferred dates.

Dietetics is a degree level entry profession and consequently the criteria for work experience are as follows:

- Year 12 or above
- Five GCSEs (Grade 9 - 5) including English Language and Maths.
- Studying two to three A levels that include chemistry, maths or biology.
- Or currently studying for one of the following: BTEC, HND or HNC which includes some science subjects; Relevant NVQ; Science-based access course; Equivalent level Scottish or Irish qualifications.

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Video

[Dietetics at Airedale – Louise's story](#)

Occupational Therapists

Occupational therapists help people of all ages to carry out everyday activities which are essential for health and wellbeing.

Within the Trust, Occupational Therapists work in the following teams:

a) Hospital Teams

- Medical
- Cardio Respiratory
- Frail Elderly
- Orthopaedics
- Neuro Rehabilitation
- Employee Health and Wellbeing
- Digital Care Hub

b) Community Teams

- AireWharfe Community (based at the Oaks in Keighley)
- Bingley Community (based at Canalside Health Centre)
- Craven Community (based at Skipton General Hospital)
- Airedale Collaborative Care
- Craven Collaborative Care (based at Skipton General Hospital)
- Manorlands Hospice
- Children
- Wheelchairs

Links to Careers Advice

For more information about occupational therapy as a career, please visit the College of Occupational Therapists website: www.rcot.co.uk

There are also a number of videos produced by the College of Occupational Therapists on [YouTube](#) which provide an insight into the work of occupational therapists.

Further Education / Higher Education Courses

Students from the following universities undertake placements with Airedale NHS Foundation Trust as part of their Occupational Therapy training. The links below will take you to information about the relevant courses.

- [University of Bradford](#)
- [Leeds Beckett University](#)

Work Experience Opportunities

For anyone interested in a career in occupational therapy, we offer a range of opportunities for you to speak to occupational therapy staff to find out more about the work we do. These include:

- **Information sessions**
One-hour sessions in the team department/office base to inform people of the scope of the role of occupational therapy practice. These sessions can be arranged with occupational therapy staff directly.
- **Observational visits**
We offer three-day work experience placements. On your placement you will have the opportunity to observe occupational therapy staff working in a wide variety of settings across the Airedale district. These sessions are arranged through the Trust work experience coordinator in the Education department at the hospital.

Criteria for Selection

Students accepted for a placement will be:

- Aged 16 or over (Year 12 and above)
- Will have studied or will be studying for one or more of the following: Three A levels; BTEC access course, health/social care NVQ
- Considering occupational therapy as a career option
- Applying to university to undertake an occupational therapy course

Speech & Language Therapists

Speech and language therapists provide life-changing treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing.

Video

[View a short video](#) about working as a speech and language therapist at Airedale.

Links for Careers Advice

For training and career information [visit the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapist's website](#).

Further Education / Higher Education Courses

Students from the following universities undertake placements with Airedale NHS Foundation Trust as part of their speech and language therapy training. The links below will take you to information about the relevant courses.

- [Leeds Beckett University](#)

Work Experience Opportunities

At Airedale we offer half-day observation placements for individuals interested in studying Speech and Language Therapy. These sessions are usually offered to individuals who have already applied, or are about to apply, to university. Observation placements are offered when the team can accommodate these requests – this will depend on team member availability.

The Speech and Language Therapy Department also offer practise-based learning placements to students on a University Speech and Language Therapy course. These are negotiated directly with the University.