Project SEARCH at Naas General Hospital

Presented by
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Internships

- One year program at Naas General Hospital
- Internships cornerstone of the program
- 10-12 weeks/3 rotations
- 4 hours per day
- Competitive, marketable, transferable skills
Tasks completed by Interns

• Collect Referral Forms from wards.
• Computer work e.g. printing, scanning documents.
• Compile core data packs for clinics.
• Punch medical reports and put in patients’ charts.
• Count and record returned medication.
• Assist patients with activities in classes, e.g. use of equipment, time patients during circuit exercises.
Supports for Intern

- On the job training with phased out support
- Adaptations if required
- Classroom Training and Support
- Smooth transition into department
- Open communication
Benefits for Interns

• Broad range of skills.
• Professional CV’s.
• Departmental References.
• Confidence gained.
• Support for Interns.
Life After Project SEARCH

Year 1

• 5 of the interns have commenced in a job of their choice.
• 1 has gone to further education
• Remaining 4 continue to seek employment.
• Each intern has increased in confidence and are focused on work being their future
YEAR 2

- 10 new participants commenced in September
- 3 new departments have signed up to participate in the project.
- Learning from last year our job development has started with the interns starting in September.
- 28 people with disabilities in the Kildare West Wicklow area applied for the 10 places on the project.
- We need to set up another one!
- The project has been shortlisted for an award at the 2014 Irish Healthcare Awards
Partnership between NG H and KARE

- Project SEARCH developed at the Cincinnati Children’s Medical Centre Ohio, USA in 1996.
- In 2013, Naas General Hospital (NGH) partnered with KARE
- Business led collaboration plan to introduce the first ever Project SEARCH Programme to Ireland
- NGH provides in patient general medical, surgical and acute psychiatric services and a 24-hour Emergency service
- Immediate catchment population of Kildare/West Wicklow (approx 220,000)
- More than 600 whole time equivalent staff are employed
Partnership Process

- KARE and Project Search met with Hospital Management.
- Project Search worked with departments to identify tasks.
- Co-ordinators trained in all departments.
- Co-ordinator between Hospital and Project.
- Steering Group established.
- Regular meetings.
- Involvement of Hospital staff in Interview process.
- Provision of Classroom facility.
- Provided Mandatory training.
Benefits to Hospital and Staff

- Life changing experience for Hospital team
- Morale boost despite Moratorium on recruitment.
- Interns have been a true joy to work with in the departments
- Interns: positive, reliable, dedicated, hard working, good time keepers, obliging.
- Integration of interns and staff.
- Reduction in workload for staff with interns completing valuable task
- We have learned a lot from each other.
- Demonstrated the potential and desire for employment among participants.
Positive Feedback

• Intern comment - “I enjoyed working at the reception desk, dealing with the public, and answering phones”.

• Manager comment- “Exceptional time keeper, listens to instructions, makes eye contact, asks for help or clarification when needed”

• Unannounced Hygiene Audit: Auditor feedback- “The areas cleaned by the intern were highly organised and spotless. 100% - a credit to her”
Recommendations

- Encourage organisations to become involved in programme
- Sharing of enriching learning experience.
- Collaboration between all partners in project can only enhance services for people with Intellectual Disabilities.
- Focus on ability of Interns.