



April 5th, 2016

## Job opportunities at new centre for care of older people

Recruitment is about to start for around 80 new jobs at Haven Court, South Tyneside's £9m centre of excellence for joined-up care for older people.

The state-of-the-art building in the grounds of South Tyneside District Hospital is expected to be the largest of its kind in the country when it opens later this year. It has been developed by South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust to provide integrated health and social care services for the Borough's older people, their carers and families on behalf of South Tyneside Council.

Work on the development began in Spring 2015 and 90 per cent of business on the site has gone to North East firms. Lesley Dawson has been appointed as Care Manager and the search is now on for suitably qualified nurses and care advocates and for staff to work in a variety of other roles, including in housekeeping and administration.

Mrs Dawson, who qualified as a mental health nurse nearly 30 years ago, previously worked in hospitals in Sunderland and as a care home manager in various locations in the North East. She was inspired to work with older people, and with those with dementia in particular, following the experience of her own grandmother.

She said: "My Nana had dementia but in the early 1980s there weren't the options for care that we have now and in the worst period of her illness she was in a psychiatric hospital. Now there are increasingly different ways of looking after people to help them to lead the good life they deserve.

"The idea behind Haven Court is a really exciting one. Working with partners, including Age UK South Tyneside and the Alzheimer's Society, the aim is for it to be at the centre of the local community, providing innovative, person-centred care and support. Whether it's to access services, such as residential or respite beds, or just to meet in the café, we want older people to get to know us so if they do have to come in they are not frightened about it. The design of the building is fantastic: the light inside is amazing and the communal areas are very bright and airy."

The decision to build Haven Court was taken in the light of South Tyneside's ageing population. Currently, older people make up 18 per cent of the Borough's population but this is estimated to rise to 21 per cent by 2021. By 2030, there is expected to be a 50 per cent rise in the cases of dementia and a 138 per cent increase among those aged over 90.



Councillor Mary Butler, South Tyneside Council's Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Support Services, said: "This innovative centre is a much-needed development which will enhance the care given to our older people and their families and carers, and ensure they receive the support and services they need in a timely, co-ordinated and effective way. Haven Court is just one element of our overall strategy to transform lives locally by promoting independence and self-care to reduce over reliance on statutory services in the long term."

The centre will help older people to live independently for as long as possible, with a wide range of high quality support and services, including residential, day and respite care and rehabilitation. It will also offer information and advice, as well as help to use technological aids to support independent living. In addition, there will be rooms for medical consultations and assessments of people's needs.

To find out about the job opportunities available email [havencourtjobs@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:havencourtjobs@stft.nhs.uk) or go to <http://www.sticl.co.uk/vacancies>

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*Pictured above: Haven Court Care Manager Lesley Dawson and Mark Kirkpatrick, Project Lead for the integrated care services hub which is recruiting staff*

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

For enquiries regarding Haven Court please contact:

Mark Kirkpatrick, Project Lead, Tel: 0191 404 1000 x 2119 [mark.kirkpatrick@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:mark.kirkpatrick@stft.nhs.uk)