

Mental Health & IAPT Commissioning Leads  
Mental Health & IAPT Service Providers

**North West:  
Workforce Directorate**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
3 Piccadilly Place  
Manchester  
M1 3BN



By Email

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Colleagues

## **RE: Expression of Interest for Trainee Assistant Practitioners for Mental Health – Spring 2021**

Building on the [‘The NHS Five Year Forward View for Mental Health \(FYFVfMH\)’](#) and [‘Stepping Forward to 2020/2021, The Mental health Workforce Plan for England’](#) I am pleased to confirm that Health Education England in collaboration with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust are offering funding packages to NHS and NHS Commissioned Providers of Mental Health services interested in transforming their workforce through the role of a ‘Trainee Assistant Practitioner.

‘The Assistant Practitioner’ is a 2 year Higher Apprenticeship, with 1 day on training release at University. It is a support role that works across a wide range of professions and care settings. This means that they can bridge the gap across integrated care pathways, and be supervised by a range of health and care professionals.

Health Education England are able to offer the following workforce transformation packages:-

### **1. Applies to Apprenticeship Levy Paying Organisations:-**

A ‘Training Grant’ contribution will be provided based upon a mid point AfC Band 3, plus on costs to support 2 days training/week. Education costs will be drawn direct from your Organisations Apprenticeship Levy.

### **2. Applies to Non Levy Paying Organisations:-**

Using the Apprenticeship Levy’s Co-Investment model HEE will provide the 5% Employer contribution and a ‘Training Grant’ contribution based upon a mid point AfC Band 3, plus on costs to support 2 days training/week.

We are looking for expressions of interest from services able to provide the appropriate access to work-based training and supervision in line with [Apprenticeship guidance](#).

This intake is available for 2020/2021 across the North of England starting in Spring 2021 with a limited number of places. Training providers will be available across the North in each of the STP areas.

If the number of expressions of interest exceed the number of funded places, allocation will be based on the selection criteria attached. For those services who are not successful in receiving a funded place we will work with you to ensure you are in a position to apply for future funding through the sustainable Apprenticeship Levy funding route.

Since this is an apprenticeship role trainees must be employed by the service and have a guaranteed post at the end of training.

Support to access the [Apprenticeship Levy](#) will be provided by the University and HEE.

For further information please see the attached fact sheet/links. If you have any questions or queries please contact Kay Helliwell on 07825 114 318 or [kay.helliwell@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:kay.helliwell@merseycare.nhs.uk).

To submit an Expression of Interest please [Click Here](#). **The application deadline is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 COP.**

Yours sincerely

*K. Helliwell*

**Kay Helliwell**  
**Project Team Manager**  
**Assistant Practitioners for Mental Health – North of England**