

Press Release

Issued: 23.9.11

SPEECH & LANGUAGE STAFF LOST FOR WORDS

The Speech and Language Therapy team at Dudley was almost lost for words when its work to help train students was recognised by Birmingham City University.

The department – which works closely with the university to provide placements for students on the BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy course – picked up a special partnership trophy at the university's recent annual Health and Social Care Awards.

Catherine Lander, student placement co-ordinator and a principal speech and language therapist with the children and young people's division, said: "Both the paediatric and adult speech and language teams have worked in partnership with the university over many years, helping to train scores of student therapists. It's a big commitment as we find placements across the range of speech and language services in Dudley for about 10-15 students a year.

"But we believe that supporting student therapists plays an important role as it helps to maintain excellent standards in our profession and contribute to ensuring the training is meeting the needs of the profession. It also provides us with learning opportunities and helps us maintain and improve our services."

Speech and language therapist Aoife Parker, who spent her final year placement at Dudley from BCU, said: "The support and kindness I received as a student completely influenced my decision to work in Dudley as a newly qualified practitioner."

Second year students on the degree course spend eight weeks with the speech and language therapy department and final year students spend 15 weeks prior to applying for jobs in the profession around the country.

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Speech and language therapy staff from paediatric and adult learning difficulties services have transferred to the Black Country Partnership, whilst adult hospital and community services have transferred to Dudley Group of Hospitals. The SLT services in both organisations continue to work together to support the university to provide a broad range of experience for trainee therapists.

The Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (BCPFT) is the major provider of:

- mental health services to people of all ages in Sandwell and Wolverhampton.
- specialist health learning disability services in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.
- community healthcare services for children, young people and families in Dudley. substance misuse services for people in Wolverhampton.

For further information contact the communications team at Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on 0121 612 8032 or communications.team@bcpft.nhs.uk