

News Release

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Hospital's trainee doctors return to their roots

Dorset County Hospital is pleased to welcome two doctors who have returned to their home county after studying medicine away, with the aim of giving back something to the community where they grew up.

Dr Anna Hope and Dr Jessica Davey have joined the hospital as part of the annual intake of foundation doctors, to complete two years of training following their graduation from medical school. The foundation doctors complete ongoing assessment during their time at the hospital, as well as completing an e-portfolio and a summative assessment at the end of each year.

At any one time the hospital has 55 foundation doctors; 30 foundation year one and 25 year two, who rotate through a range of specialties. They are supported by Dr Adeel Ghaffar, Consultant Physician and Foundation Programme Director, and Miss Audrey Ryan, who is the Associate Director of Medical Education, and has oversight of all trainee doctors at the hospital.

Dr Anna Hope grew up in Osmington, and attended sixth form at Thomas Hardye School in Dorchester. At school she had an affinity with the sciences, and was keen to combine this passion with interaction with people. With only a few months until the university application deadline closed, she took the decision to apply for a degree in medicine. She was the first person in her family to attend university; attending Newcastle University which has been training generations of doctors at its medical school since 1834.

Dr Hope said: "I enjoyed my time at Newcastle, and it was great to work with a different patient demographic, and to understand the challenges of delivering healthcare in areas of social deprivation. From my experiences of hospitals in the North East, it seemed that smaller hospitals tended to be friendlier – in the larger hospitals sometimes the senior staff were less approachable. This was one of the reasons I wanted to come back to DCH; I wanted to work in a smaller, friendly hospital with a real sense of community."

Dr Jessica Davey attended Wey Valley School before moving to Thomas Hardye School to attend sixth form. Dr Davey said: "Before I went to sixth form I wasn't really aware of medicine as a career, it was only talking to friends whose parents were medics that I understood that becoming a doctor was a realistic career choice for me." Although the competitiveness of applying for a place at medical school was daunting, Jessica was successful and was in the first generation of her immediate family to go to university. She attended the Peninsula Medical School, undertaking

training in Exeter, Plymouth and Cornwall. She said: “I had heard very good things about DCH – I was keen to work in a small hospital, and when I heard the feedback from other doctors who had trained at DCH, I knew it was where I wanted to undertake my training”.

Both Dr Hope and Dr Davey say they currently have no fixed career plans, although both are keen to follow a medical rather than surgical path, but plan to make the most of the training opportunities available to them over the next two years at DCH.

Dr Adeel Ghaffar, Consultant Physician at Dorset County Hospital and Foundation Programme Director said: “We are delighted to have such a wonderful, dedicated group of foundation doctors. I hope that stories such as Anna’s and Jessica’s will encourage other local young people to consider a career in medicine, and encourage other doctors in training who grew-up in Dorchester to return to the area after attending university.”

ENDS

PHOTO: Dr Anna Hope and Dr Jessica Davey, with Dr Adeel Ghaffar, Foundation Programme Director

For more information please contact the DCH Communications Team on 01305 254683 or communications@dchft.nhs.uk