



Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group

for the promotion within Parliament and Whitehall of the PREVENTION OF LIMB LOSS and the provision of prosthetic, orthotic, wheelchairs & special seating and other vital rehabilitation services/technologies for ALL PERSONS WITH LIMB LOSS in the UK and Internationally.

News Release

MORE HEALTHCARE APPRENTICES WANTED THE BACKBONE OF THE SERVICE

Justine Greening MP and Wandsworth Trust Chair Ian Reynolds want to see numbers doubled in four years

Putney, Roehampton and Southfields MP Justine Greening, as a key member of the Parliamentary Limb Loss Group, has helped open the doors of opportunity to a campaign to provide more skills and more jobs for Healthcare Apprentices. Justine intends to go the extra mile to help double the investment in Healthcare Apprentices – clinical and non clinical - over the next four years.



Justine Greening MP

Justine Greening MP says:

"I met Amber Najam at our wonderful Douglas Bader Rehabilitation Centre in Roehampton. Amber is typical of the skilled and caring young people who are grateful as an Apprentice for their education and training and employment, and who unselfishly want to help people of all ages, with a disability, achieve their independence and their rightful place in the community.

I am grateful to all the Ambers out there and to all those who devotedly help them to develop their skills and continue their professional development. They give me faith in the future of our health services in Putney, Roehampton and Southfields, which I am determined to do all I can to secure and sustain. I understand that Amber is going to share her enthusiasm nationwide and I wish her every success."

Amber Najam began work as an apprentice at the rehabilitation workshop at Queen Mary's Hospital in 2007, after completing an engineering diploma at Kingston College. She has been working as an NHS apprentice for almost two years.

In response to the question "Why do you like being an Apprentice?" Amber says:

"I am very appreciative and glad to have this amazing opportunity. My Apprenticeship is the greatest thing I've ever done. It's opened up a whole new world, offering me a well-paid, promising career. I will be coming out with Higher National Certificate. I have met such wonderful teachers and pupils at College and have learnt so much. I am able to complete my qualifications whilst gaining valuable work experience and being paid at the same time.

I work with amazing people whose personalities reflect their work. I see total dedication. They work with passion and commitment. They are generous and teach me without hesitation. I have learnt so much, and I am still learning more as the days go by. I am being taught how to live as an adult, how to handle responsibilities, how to make decisions."

Stuart Reeves, Associate Director for Adult and Specialist Services, adds:

"Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, is proud to join the Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group in supporting the proposal to double investment in healthcare apprenticeships over the next four years. It's important to recognise the valuable contribution that NHS apprentices can offer, and we are hoping to increase the number of apprenticeships available in Wandsworth in the future."

Limb Loss Group Member Baroness Tonge joined the conference at lunchtime and shared her enthusiasms and wise guidance and put everyone in good fettle for the afternoon's work.



From L to R – Ian Reynolds (Chair WPCT), Baroness Tonge, Amber Najam (Apprentice), Bridget Herniman (Skills for Health,) Sam Gallop CBE (APLLG)

Wandsworth Trust Chair, Ian Reynolds, says:
"I am very excited about this opportunity to preserve the expert skills of our Roehampton Unit by transferring them to a new generation of apprentices.

We have over 600 years of experience shared between 30 highly skilled technicians and Healthcare Apprenticeships will provide the ideal vehicle for ensuring that this knowledge is passed on for the benefit of future amputees and service users.

I look forward to Amber being joined by further Apprentices over the years through this programme."

Sam Gallop, Advisor to the Parliamentary Limb Loss Group, adds: *"As a double amputee since 1944, I know how vital are these rehabilitation services, and the caring and skilled people who provide them. Our keynote speaker from SKILLS FOR HEALTH, BRIDGET HERNIMAN, and all our other good friends have, got the Group's campaign off to a flying start. "Apprentices" in all the vital healthcare professions are the backbone of the service. We must recruit now for the long term and provide new and greatly needed employment opportunities."*

Speakers and delegates included representatives from:

BAPO; BHTA; College of Occupational Therapy; Dorset Orthopaedic; Havering NHS Primary Care Trust; Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust; King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; Kingston University; Limbless Association; Opcare; RSL Steeper; RW Rechere & Associates; Roehampton Limb User Group; Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability; Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust; Royal Pharmaceutical Society; Skills For Health; Southwark NHS Primary Care Trust; St. George's, University of London; University of Roehampton; Wandsworth Borough Council; Wandsworth NHS Primary Care Trust.

APPRENTICE AMBER AT WORK



Apprentice, Amber Najam, who is based at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton completes the second lamination process on a child's below elbow prosthesis. The 4-year-old child asked if the prosthesis could be made in her favourite colour, red! Amber is covering the prosthesis in a specially-prepared polyester resin, under the guidance of Frank Nolan, a technician with over 30 years of experience, who supervised her for a three-month period during her apprenticeship.



The photo of Amber alone shows her preparing a lower limb for its cosmetic foam covering. Amber, who is now being mentored on lower limbs by Richard Batty, who has 17 years of experience at QMH, is being shown how to attach a prosthetic foot to its socket.

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Editor's Note: The initiative to double the investment in healthcare apprenticeships over four years is set out in Department of Health publication HIGH QUALITY CARE FOR ALL CM7431. "Nationally, we will seek to extend apprenticeship opportunities in the NHS – recognising that healthcare support staff – clinical and non-clinical – is the backbone of the service. We will therefore double our investment in apprenticeships over the next four years, and to continue to work with the Trade Unions and Skills For Health, to identify the appropriate use of apprenticeships within each clinical career framework, and in non-clinical roles."