

Teams showcase what the Westcountry has to offer at GP job fair in Plymouth

The very first Westcountry GP job fair saw GP practices and local health organisations come together to showcase what the region has to offer to GP candidates considering working here.

Representatives from eight GP practices and federations from across Devon and Cornwall, as well as local Clinical Commissioning Groups and Local Medical Committees, Plymouth City Council and others attended the event held at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth on 29th June.

Candidates who visited the job fair had the opportunity to find out about current GP vacancies at local practices and hear about options for more flexible working including portfolio jobs, part time hours, remote working and sessional opportunities. They also got a taste of what it's like to live in the South West and find out how they could achieve a better work-life balance by practicing here.

The NHS England South West primary care and medical teams were also on hand to discuss support and training opportunities and gave an oversight of our current local priorities.

Alongside the job fair, several candidates interested in joining NHS England's International GP Recruitment Programme (IGPR) took part in interviews and assessments, as well as visits to local practices and hospitals to gain an insight into living and working in the South West.

The event was welcomed by GP practices and candidates alike, and even saw its first recruitment successes, with Church View Practice in Plymouth later recruiting a GP who visited their stand after months of trying to fill the vacancy.

Pam Smith, Project Lead, said: "We were really pleased with how all the organisations involved embraced the event particularly when we know practices are already under pressure. All of the teams worked together to give candidates a great experience and the chance to learn about the local opportunities through a single visit. Planning for the next job fair and International GP recruitment event is underway and will again be based in Plymouth. We are however conscious that practices across Devon and Cornwall need to attract more GPs to their area and are thinking how best to highlight those job opportunities to potential candidates so are keen to hear from all practices wanting to get involved or having vacancies they want to fill."

Following the success of the event this summer, the team have already booked in the next GP job fair at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth on Friday 12th October 2018. For more information please visit www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/medical/opportunities-to-live-and-work-as-a-gp-in-the-westcountry/westcountry-gp-job-fair/

Take a look at some highlights from our last GP jobs fair in Plymouth:

<https://youtu.be/SHN0RTcn9Nk>