

The Atlas Programme: Mentoring Care Experienced Medical Students

The educational journey and outcomes of care experienced young people are significantly impacted by their time in care, and these individuals face unique challenges demanding targeted support. We are acting decisively to enhance local support for this talented group, directly calling upon colleagues across the NHS locally to commit their time and expertise to our medical student mentoring programme, and your engagement is critical to the success of the initiative.

The Atlas Programme is a strategic partnership between Cheshire and Merseyside ICS, Alder Hey Children's NHS FT, and the Universities of Liverpool, Edge Hill and Chester, with oversight and governance from the Alder Hey Academy. Our objective is to deliver consistent, long-term mentorship, dismantle the stigma associated with care experience, improve tangible outcomes for these young people, and cultivate a strong sense of community.

Expectations of our mentors

A commitment to regular meetings is essential, with an intended duration of each mentoring relationship of a minimum of, ideally, two years, involving up to six, 1-hour sessions annually during term time (equivalent to 1 per term during each academic year).

Formal mentoring qualifications are not a prerequisite; your professional experience and demonstrated expertise are the assets required to make a substantial impact on a student's trajectory.

Onboarding

Comprehensive induction and ongoing support will be provided throughout your participation, with an initial session to focus on establishing clear, mutual expectations for the mentoring relationship. **Please hold the evening of Tuesday July 1st for a launch at Alder Hey.**

Call to Action

Your commitment to mentoring will directly contribute to the development of resilient and skilled future medical professionals. To register your interest, please fill in the form (click link) <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/MNV6Aiv8aX> or email theacademy@alderhey.nhs.uk

A member of the team will contact you to address any queries and detail the programme structure.

With our thanks, in anticipation, for your support

Sincerely,

Mike Gibney, Chief People Officer, C&M ICS
Dr Katherine Birch, Director, Alder Hey Academy
Dr Bryony Kendall, Named GP for Safeguarding, C&M ICS
Paul Martin, Head of Workforce Programmes, C&M ICS