This Month:

- Internship 2 pages
- Open Day
- Employability Officers meeting
- Staff engagement with other PS sites
- Ruth’s training session: Engaging with Employers
Welcome Message from the Project SEARCH University of Aberdeen onsite Team.

This month the interns have been continuing to settle into their 2nd internships and layering on new skills all the time. The onsite team held a second Open Day for prospective applicants, family and support networks, as well as hosting several extra visits form those interested in the project. Interns spent the day away from Project SEARCH meeting with various aftercare support networks, while the onsite team met with other Project SEARCH sites for a networking and training event. Ruth from Skills Development Scotland visited to deliver training regarding approaching employers.

By Lisa Mant

Internship 2:

Keelan’s 2nd internship is at the Suttie Centre as a General Assistant, where he is responsible for ensuring classrooms are tidied regularly and they are fully stocked with the appropriate supplies.

Sean’s 2nd internship is with the AV Department as an Assistant, where he carries required equipment around the University and sets up cameras, microphones and projectors for lectures, conferences and events. Sean has been able to get involved with editing photos and footage from some
Jordan’s second internship is as a Retail Assistant for Aramark at our partner North East Scotland College. Jordan has gained experience of stock replenishment and rotation, receiving and storing deliveries, interacting with customers and operating the till.

Zoe’s new internship is as a Porter with the Estates Department at the University. Zoe delivers mail across campus and helps to set up rooms for events and conferences.

Aiden’s 2nd internship is as a Catering Assistant for Aramark at our partner North East Scotland College. Aiden has been involved in a wide variety of tasks such as food preparation for breakfasts and lunch menus as well as the weekly deep clean of units. Aiden has been able to practise his knife skills.
After being the first provider in the North East to receive a Gold level accreditation from Developing Young Workforce for our work with young people, STV took an interest in our Project SEARCH site and came to film a couple of our interns at work for a short piece on the news. Heather was interviewed to give an oversight of the project.
Open Day: 1st February 2017

Heather, Catriona, Jordan, Mark Paterson from the Botanic Garden and myself all gave a talk to the group of visitors who attended the Open Day. The group of guests was so large we had to borrow extra chairs to try and fit everyone in. We are so glad to see so much interest form young people and their support networks that came to the open day and look forward to receiving all of the application forms for next year. Several interns volunteered to help on the day by taking groups of visitors on tours around campus to see some of our internship sites. I hope the people that came got a lot of information and got answers to any questions they may have had regarding Project SEARCH.

Staff engagement with other PS site

The onsite team, along with other partner organisations, attended a training and networking event in Edinburgh with all other Scottish Project SEARCH sites. It was a great opportunity to share best practice and get ideas for the future. We look forward to working more closely with some other Project SEARCH sites.
Interns Away Day

The interns all spent the day away from Project SEARCH meeting with their individual aftercare support networks. For interns form Aberdeenshire, that meant they each had a meeting with their own Employability Officer to keep them up to date with their job search progress and to discuss jobs of interest. For Interns from Aberdeen City, it meant a visit to Marischal College to meet with our partner representative Jenny, and to have a training session with HR staff regarding job applications and interviews. All interns were excited to share what they had done with everyone else at Project SEARCH.

SDS Training - How to Approach Employers

Ruth from Skills Development Scotland came to deliver a training session to the Interns on how to speak to employers. The training is ahead of the Aberdeen “Moving On” youth recruitment event next month but the practice can used in any number of situations. Through various group activities, Interns discussed how to initiate conversation with employers, what questions to ask, how to best describe their own unique selling points and what they should take with them on the day. Interns spent some time researching a range of companies that will be represented at the event and fed this information back to the group, and finally, the Interns took part in a role play activity taking turns being both the Intern and the employer. The interns are feeling more confident about approaching a wider range of people to discuss their skills and abilities.
Project SEARCH University of Aberdeen welcomes Jack to the team:

Jack Watt, a former intern from last year, has been recruited to join the onsite team as our new Administrative Assistant. We are very excited to welcome Jack to the team and look forward to working together. Jack will be responsible for daily administrative tasks such as keeping the class register, scanning, filing and managing contact databases.

Welcome to the team!

Next month at Project SEARCH:

- North East Scotland College recruitment days
- Applications for next year close
- Interns feedback to one another regarding their internships
- Interns resign from 2nd internship and apply to 3rd
- Interns final workshop week
- Visit to Sainsbury’s
- “Moving On” recruitment event
Intern of the Month

Jordan

The reasons given:

1. He has achieved a lot recently and has shown confidence in what he is doing and he presented in front of a group at the Open Day.
2. He always treats others well and always likes a challenge.
3. He has done a really good job in his 2nd internship and is always working hard.
4. He put good effort into his telephone practise and job searching.