



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

MP AND TRUST CHAIR LAUNCH APPRENTICESHIPS CAMPAIGN

Justine Greening MP and Ian Reynolds Support Lord Darzi's Initiative

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 over the next four years.



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 one 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.

Amber says:

"Being an apprentice has opened up a whole new world, offering me a well-paid promising career, with the chance to earn wages while learning new skills. My team are dedicated to their work, and always willing to help me. I've learnt so much already, and I still have a long way to go. I'm really grateful for this amazing opportunity and I'm excited about my future career in the NHS."

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 Lord Darzi’s 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.”

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.



*Apprentices Study Day at QMH,
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.”*

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.

AN APPRENTICE 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 supervises her for a three-month period during her apprenticeship.

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Editor's Note: The initiative to double the investment in healthcare apprenticeships over four years comes from Lord Darzi and is set out in the Department of Health publication HIGH QUALITY CARE FOR ALL CM7431. As Lord Darzi puts it: "Nationally, we will seek to extend apprenticeship opportunities in the NHS – recognising that healthcare support staff – clinical and non-clinical – are 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."