

Primary Care Paramedic Ambassador – LMC/Training Hub

Paramedics working in Primary Care in Somerset have a new ambassador employed by the Somerset LMC and Somerset Training Hub to support and represent them at local and regional level.

Paramedic Catherine Hayden has worked in general practice and urgent care since 2016 when she left frontline emergency work behind to pursue new opportunities in the newly emerging primary care practitioner roles in West Somerset. Having worked in general practice in Minehead and currently Taunton, as well as for Devon Doctors Group as part of the out of hours team, she now takes on the role of Primary Care Paramedic Ambassador for one day a week in addition to her clinical work.

Catherine is very excited to take on this new challenge:

"I have seen the role of paramedics in primary care grow over the last few years from a few of us here and there supporting our general practice colleagues to nearly 50 of us in Somerset alone providing what is now an established model of patient care. The opportunities that have grown with us, such as Advanced Practice in higher education, Non-Medical Prescribing, First Contact Practitioner accreditation and the new Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme Paramedics employed directly by PCNs continue to broaden the horizon for us and I am proud that in true pioneering Somerset fashion our LMC and Training Hub continue to recognise and support our part in the provision of primary care. This role is new and will no doubt develop as paramedics continue to do, but my initial objectives are to assist with the development of education (including the Roadmap to Advanced Practice), support the wellbeing needs of my colleagues, provide advice to employers and generally be a point of contact for all things primary care paramedic. With the teams at the LMC and Training Hub I hope to build on what we have already in terms of communication and support both for those of us with a few years or more under our belts and for those just starting out in primary care."

Catherine can be contacted via email on catherine.hayden@nhs.net, she works mainly on a Tuesday for the LMC/Training Hub but can be available at other times when required.