



## Gaining Skills

### Pranee's success continues at the NHS...

**Time for an update!** The first edition of Network News, out just over a year ago featured a lady called Pranee who had taken part in "The Retail Experience" and got a job at Sainsbury's. One year on and Pranee's still working on checkout in Sainsbury's Stockport but also making inroads into another career.

Pranee comes from Thailand where she held a degree in Chemistry and worked in a laboratory. After getting married and coming to England,

Pranee found it difficult to get work due to the language barrier. She began taking English language lessons and that's when Embracing Diversity got involved! However, the project also exists to ensure people get opportunities to progress and we continued working with Pranee to help her obtain a job where she can use her degree and experience.

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust is a valuable partner in the Embracing Diversity Project and through our

contacts in Human Resources, Quality Control North West (QCNW) got involved. QCNW is part of the National Health Service (NHS) and operates on a contract basis. They also work within the private industry with a range of clients around the North of England. Of the 26 people who work there, nearly all are qualified in fields such as Chemistry and Micro-biology. They log and test samples to agreed specifications or check they are not contaminated. They also provide advice on a consultancy basis.

## Manager - Phil Weir takes up the tale:



**“I was contacted by Vickie Eddy (NHS HR) asking if I would be interested in taking someone on from the Embracing Diversity project. I was unsure at first and a bit apprehensive as I didn’t know what to expect. I was told about Pranee and almost as if like clockwork, an Assistant Analyst post became vacant which, it seemed she would be ideal for.”**

“Pranee came in and we had an informal chat/interview. I decided there and then to give it a go and Pranee began a six-week voluntary placement with the plan that at the end she would be paid.”

This was made possible by the NHS’ Voluntary Services Learning Programme that works in partnership with Embracing Diversity to provide practical work experience at the hospital through volunteering. These placements focus on building the individual’s confidence, while enhancing their competencies with a view that these skills can be transferred to a paid job at the end of the programme.

Phil says, “I had initial concerns about her English, although when she settled into the interview she was fine.” He believes that “in a traditional interview, language would have been more of a barrier.”

Pranee says she’s enjoying working at the NHS and likes to keep busy. She still works part-time at Sainsbury’s where she enjoys the chance to chat to customers and provide a service. She’s still studying English and, of course, she works at the hospital.

She says, “I’m happy to be at the lab. In Thailand I was a scientist but after I got married everything changed. It’s very important for me to do something useful in the country I live in. I’m keen to keep learning and I would like to go back to Uni to update my knowledge and continue learning.”



“I was happy to volunteer to prove I could do the job. In Sainsbury’s I have been able to work while practising and improving my English and this again teaches me as I’m learning more specific technical language.”

Pranee adds, “I want to help people as last year I was sick in hospital for a while and realised I wanted to do something to help people when they are ill.”



**Pranee with her manager Phil**