Aspiring Cleft Professionals - Clinical Nurse Specialist

The Clinical Nurse Specialist is a core member of the multidisciplinary team, specialising in the management of the child and family promoting a partnership of care between family and professionals, especially until completion of primary surgery. Within regional services spanning hospital and community, based on a holistic family approach. The aims are to reduce long term physical and emotional problems within the family and to establish as near normal a feeding regime with the baby as possible. The nurse responds to referrals normally within 24 hours to assess and plan the nursing care of patients using evidence based practice.

PATHWAY

Degree

- Batchelors or Masters Degree with Registered Nurse (Child or Neonatal) / Health Visitor qualification
- NMC registration

- Newly Qualifed Nurse role in either hospital or community setting..
- Cleft Lip and Palate care is within Regional Services therefore unlikely to be a cleft specific position
- Make links with Regional Cleft Networks to seek opportunities and experiences.

NQN

Relevant experience

- Consider looking for employment related to the cleft pathway of care, such as surgical and/or community nursing.
- Access leadership experiences and courses such as The RCPCH the free eLearning module entitled *Cleft Palate: Examination in the Newborn* http://rcpch.learningpool.com/course/view.php?id=291

Apply for posts

- Contact Regional Cleft Networks to express an interest
- Register with NHS Jobs for notification of cleft related posts
- Make contact and ask more specifics about the vacancy.