

## Police authority praised in report

A POLICE authority is performing well in managing its resources and providing value for money.

The verdict on Durham Police Authority was delivered by the Audit Commission, following an inspection earlier this year.

The commission said the authority, along with Durham Police had "put into place proper arrangements for securing efficiency and effectiveness in its use of police resources".

It said: "Value for money is assessed as performing well. Overall costs, including unit costs for key services, are in line with other authorities and forces."

"There is clear information on costs and the relationship between costs and quality of service."

"Performance has improved across all areas."

Last week Durham Police warned it needed to make 2.9m worth of savings to achieve what it called a standstill budget for next year after a tight financial settlement from Government.

Police authority chairman Peter Thompson said: "This report is excellent and reflects all of the hard work of both the police authority and the constabulary."

"The police authority rides itself on ensuring value for money and will continue to improve the services it provides to the public."



**HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT:** Students, from left, Rachel Carfoot, 17, Tom Simpson, 16, and Jen Corner, 17, who completed the William Harvey Project. They are all now studying for science-based A-levels and hope to pursue medical careers

# Science students hail hospital project

## How to get a chic new festive look for less

Looking to update your look for the festive season? Thankfully, Bay Garnett, celebrity stylist and style advisor to Schwarzkopf's Poly Color has scoured the high street to select a few items that can be incorporated into your existing wardrobe to create a chic new festive look for less. In addition to introducing a few new accessories Bay explains, "Changing your hair colour by just a shade or covering grey can also update your look." and Poly Color is the most affordable way to colour hair! Available at Morrisons and Wilkinsons (RRP £2.49) you can have your colour and still have money left over to treat yourself to that new accessory! Here are two budget-crunching looks devised especially to suit light blonde and warm brown shades.

The contrast of blonde on black is striking. Wear these accessories with black leggings, a black t-shirt and a simple jacket. Add some boots and slant the beret for best effect. Schwarzkopf Poly Color Tint Shade 31 Natural Blonde (£2.49), black patent belt (Primark, £2.50), black sequin beret (Primark, £5.00), Animal print motif scarf (Primark, £2.00)



A HOSPITAL-BASED science programme for young people in the North-East could be introduced nationally.

The William Harvey Project is a two-year programme aimed at 14 to 16-year-olds, which is designed to encourage science-based further learning through work placements in local hospitals.

The programme, named after the 17th Century scientist who discovered the circulation of blood, is being run by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

It was set up by the one of the trust's consultants, Dr Sarah Pearce, to link local hospitals in the county to learn about sciences in the NHS, and has already captured the imagination of pupils and boosted GCSE grades.

It recognises that too few students are interested in science while they are unaware

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of the science-based career opportunities available.

The programme has recently been evaluated by an educationalist from Cambridge who would like to introduce a similar project in the South.

Dr Pearce said: "The programme offers students the opportunity to develop a special relationship with one of the trust's three main hospitals and to see science in action, both in the hospital and in an academic setting. Those selected for the project by their teachers are guaranteed work experience in one of the science departments of the hospitals and will also visit the university science campus, learn first aid and resuscitation techniques as part of their time with the project."

"The recent evaluation has shown that being involved in the project has led to an increase in ambition in the young people involved in the project to go and pursue sciences further. This has also been linked to young people involved in the project receiving higher GCSE results than originally predicted."

Rachel Carfoot, a 17-year-old pupil from Framwellgate Moor School, in Durham, has just completed two years' work experience placements at the University Hospital of North Durham and at Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

She said: "I have been interested in a career in nursing from the age of 12. The William Harvey Project has inspired me to study for a degree in nursing and to specialise in adult diabetes care. The project has enabled me to gain key skills and knowledge I will need in the future if I want to become a nurse."