



DECEMBER 2025
OAKDALE GROUP



Newsletter

WWW.OAKDALEGROUP.ORG



Seasons Greetings to Everyone from your Diversity Champions.

As we approach the end of the year, we want to take a moment to wish all our colleagues a joyful and restful holiday season. Whether you celebrate Christmas, another meaningful tradition, or simply enjoy the quieter moments this time of year brings, we hope the break offers you peace, connection, and time to recharge. Oakdale is made richer by our diverse beliefs, cultures, and celebrations represented across our teams.

Opening the Door to Conversation

This time of year also provides an opportunity to learn more about one another. If you'd like to spark positive conversations with colleagues about holidays and traditions, here are a few welcoming questions you might use:

- "Do you have any traditions, religious or not, that you enjoy at this time of year?"
- "Is there a holiday you celebrate that you'd like others to know more about?"
- "What's one thing you look forward to during the winter season?"
- "Are there any foods, stories, or aspects from your culture that are meaningful to you this time of year?"

These questions are meant simply to encourage curiosity, understanding, and connection. Thank you for continuing to help make our workplace a supportive, educated and inclusive space for everyone.

Wishing you a warm and meaningful season from your Diversity Champions, Ellis, Kim and Zaynab



4 Current Vacancies

In this edition...

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2 Wreath Workshops

and a partridge in a pear tree...

A WARM WELCOME

Oakdale is delighted to welcome the following people so far in 2025 and we look forward to working together with them

SUPPORT SERVICES

Emily Quinn -

Business Development Manager

Chris Ackerman -

Transformation Lead, Digital Innovation

Vicky Henderson

People Coordinator

Bethan Davies

HR Data Entry Clerk

ND SERVICE

Beth Metcalfe -

Team Manager

Beth Short -

ND Practitioner (SLT)

Rhianna McDonald -

ND Practitioner (Nurse)

Alyssa Cartwright -

Apprentice Administrator

Julia Berry -

ADHD Nurse Prescriber

Chloe Bowers -

Apprentice Administrator

Sam Dobson -

Triage Support Worker

Nina Moseley -

Triage Support Worker

Huda Ahmed -

Apprentice Administrator

PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPIES

Charlotte Prudhoe -

Triage Support Worker

Frances Farrell -

Trainee Clinical Psychologist

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to our new Emergency First Aiders

A huge well done to **Mabel Walker, Jenna Tomelty** and **Kelsey Deighton** for successfully passing the Emergency First Aid at Work course delivered by St John Ambulance.

This important training ensures our team at Oakdales Halifax Centre remains confident and well equipped to respond in emergency situations, helping to keep everyone safe in the workplace.

Thank you all for your commitment and professionalism, a fantastic achievement and a real credit to our organisation!



Oakdale Support Services Division Introducing Our New Name:

A range of teams and roles that support Oakdale's clinical operations have now been brought together into a single division, known as Support Services. This brings colleagues together to strengthen collaboration, align priorities, and support the organisation more effectively.

Support Services are a driving force within Oakdale, leading on the transformation of our technology, the development and promotion of new initiatives, the evolution of our service offers, and the maintenance of strong clinical governance, compliance, and commercial frameworks.

A big thank you to everyone within Support Services for the expertise and commitment they bring. We're looking forward to seeing the continued impact of the division as it supports Oakdale's future direction.

Employment Hero

The rollout of Employment Hero across the organisation is now complete, and all employed staff should now have successfully set up their accounts.

Employment Hero is our central system for key HR processes, including access to payslips, personal details, leave requests and important documents. Having everyone fully set up ensures we can manage information securely, accurately and efficiently moving forward.

If you have already completed your setup, thank you for doing so promptly. If you experienced any issues or believe your access is not yet fully active, please contact the HR team as soon as possible so this can be resolved.

Thank you for your cooperation and support during this transition.

Vacancies

Use the QR code to check out current vacancies.



Don't forget to share them with your networks and on LinkedIn!

Can you help?

Do you know someone who has had a positive experience with Oakdale?

Please reach out and ask them if they would be willing to leave us a Google Review!

There are business sized cards available in front offices (with QR codes for both the NHS and Google) which you can collect and give to clients.



Handcrafted Holiday Cheer: Wreath Workshop Highlights

On Saturday 6th December, Themis was the hostess with the mostest and delivered two wonderfully festive Wreath Making Workshops.

In the run-up to the day, Themis spent lots of time gathering all the materials needed to make the sessions special. From fresh greenery to ribbons and decorative touches, there was plenty to spark everyone's creativity.

The results were fabulous, with a whole collection of beautiful, unique wreaths, each made with care and a personal flourish.

It was a fantastic way to kick off the festive season, but during this season of giving, we're also mindful that times can be financially difficult for many. That's why all proceeds from the workshops will go to Oakdale's charitable funding. This vital pot of money helps cover the costs of therapy for those who need support but struggle with fees. It was heartwarming to see creativity and community spirit coming together for such an important cause.

A big thank you to Themis for all the effort put into making the workshops such an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.



New Mental Health Champions!

We are delighted to introduce Sam Durrant (Psychological Therapies Service) and Ella Scaife (Support Services) as our new Mental Health Champions!

This important role is all about promoting wellbeing, encouraging open conversations around mental health, and helping to ensure that everyone feels supported at work. Sam and Ella will act as visible advocates for mental health across the organisation, helping to signpost support, raise awareness, and champion positive wellbeing initiatives.

Both bring a genuine passion for supporting others, along with valuable insight and enthusiasm. They will be working closely with teams to promote a culture where mental health is prioritised, stigma is challenged, and people feel confident to speak up and seek help when they need it.

We're incredibly grateful to Sam and Ella for stepping into this role joining Laura Shewan in making such a positive commitment to staff wellbeing.



Say Hello to your CPD Champions

We're delighted to introduce **Georgia Griffiths** and **Claire Rowland** as our new **CPD (Continuing Professional Development) Champions**.



Georgia and Claire will be working to support and promote high-quality CPD opportunities across the organisation, helping to ensure that learning, development and professional growth remain at the heart of what we do. Their role will include sharing opportunities, encouraging engagement with CPD, and supporting teams to access relevant training and development pathways.

This is an exciting step in strengthening our learning culture, and we're incredibly grateful to Georgia and Claire for taking on this important role alongside their existing work.

Employed staff can check out the policy [here](#)



Safeguarding Leadership Announcement



The Safeguarding Governance Group is pleased to confirm the appointment of our Designated Safeguarding Leads, who have undertaken enhanced training to support their responsibilities in safeguarding adults and children across the organisation.



Lee Clewett – Designated Safeguarding Lead (Adults)

Lee is the primary point of contact for safeguarding concerns relating to adults, supporting staff to recognise and respond to concerns and ensuring appropriate action and referrals are made.

Jude Johnson – Designated Safeguarding Lead (Children)

Jude leads on safeguarding concerns involving children and young people, providing guidance to staff and ensuring safe, timely and appropriate responses in line with statutory requirements.



Caroline Falconer – Corporate Safeguarding Lead

Caroline provides strategic oversight of safeguarding across the organisation, ensuring compliance with legislation, strengthening safeguarding processes and promoting a strong culture of safety and accountability. Caroline also chairs the Safeguarding Governance Group, providing leadership and direction for safeguarding practice.



These roles are fundamental to maintaining high standards of safeguarding and ensuring a safe environment for everyone who uses and delivers our services.

End of Year Party!

Last Friday we wrapped up the year in true Oakdale style with a fantastic end-of-year celebration, it was a great turnout! The room was full, the atmosphere was warm and buzzing, and both food and drink flowed generously throughout the evening.

A highlight of the night was undoubtedly the poem, if you know, you know!

And as for the dance floor... it didn't stay empty for long. The 90s classics made a triumphant return, proving once and for all that some moves simply never go out of fashion. The Macarena, Saturday Night, and 5, 6, 7, 8 had everyone joining in, with enthusiasm that can only be described as both nostalgic and heroic.

Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the night such a memorable way to close out the year. Here's to carrying that energy, joy, and togetherness into the year ahead!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December Early Pay



To support everyone over the festive period, we've arranged for December salaries to be paid early this year.

All employed staff will receive their December pay on **Monday 22nd December**, instead of the usual last working day of the month. We hope this early payment helps with planning for the festive period and offers a little extra peace of mind at a busy time of year.

Christmas Eve Early Closure

No Bob Cratchits in this organisation!

Just a reminder as we head into the final week of the year that all Oakdale and BUSS centres and services will close at **1pm on Wednesday 24th December** as part of our festive arrangements.

This applies across the organisation and is intended to give everyone a little extra time to begin the festive period whether that's travelling, spending time with loved ones, or simply enjoying a slower start to the break.

