The development of a shared Librarian post

Whittington Health Library and St Ann’s Hospital Library
Shared issues

- Looking to develop Library Service by adding an additional Librarian that could
  - support training,
  - develop existing services
  - promote library service
  - Assist with literature searches/current awareness

- Limited budget to recruit for a full time post

- Knowledge for Healthcare – Emphasis on developing
  - collaboration,
  - partnership working
  - development of LKS workforce

- Existing links between WHL and BEH–MHT meant we were already looking at how we might work more closely together
Shared solution... A Shared Librarian

- **Benefits for the Library Services**
  - Expansion of workforce for both Library Services
  - Development of services
  - Sharing of best practice – staff training, literature search forums
  - Collaboration on future projects e.g. current awareness service, procurement

- **And for the post holder**
  - Able to offer a full time post
  - Gain experience within 2 NHS Trusts/ Library Services
  - Development of a new, flexible role
The background

- Post had to be approved by Whittington Vacancy Scrutiny Committee and by Chief Executive
- Supported at senior levels in both Trusts
- We drafted an agreement which was signed by both Trusts making clear terms, conditions & responsibilities.
- Job advert and Job Description jointly agreed
- Recruitment carried out through WHL with BEH sitting in on shortlisting and interviews
Challenges

Completely new post so not sure what to expect

- Managing workload between 2 organisations
- Learning different local procedures/ resources

- Admin – the post holder will have 2 sets of inductions, mandatory training, ID card and passwords!
Progress..

- We have now recruited and appointed to this post
- Not yet started in the post but are due to join us in early January
- Fixed term for 12 months initially
- Reviewing progress at 6 months time