

News from Skills for Care National

Skills for Care Training Strategy Implementation Funding – 2009/10 Funding Round

The documentation for the 2009/10 Training Strategy Implementation Funding round will be issued on the 16th February 2009. In addition to NVQs, the Common Induction Standards & the Learning Disability Qualification, this year the following will be funded:

- First Aid
- Moving and Handling
- Food Hygiene
- Manager Induction Standards

For 2009/10 only we will also be making a contribution towards the employer's costs of funding the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for Work qualification. Further details of funding amounts and evidence requirements will be made available to successful partnerships.

Skills for Care London would very much welcome new Partnerships bidding for this funding.

For further information about TSI funding please visit the funding section of the Skills for Care London website (www.skillsforcarelondon.org.uk) and download the TSI funding leaflet.

For a copy of the London bidding documentation, please contact Edith Ifekwuna on (020) 7471 6773 / edith.ifekwuna@skillsforcare.org.uk



Skills for Care launch consultation on new knowledge sets

Skills for Care are launching a national consultation to create four new knowledge sets to support people who have a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum condition.

The four sets are designed to set out the basic knowledge needed to support people who have a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum and Skills for Care will be running two workshops for each set to develop the final documents.

Skills for Care want to recruit new volunteers to join fully inclusive workshops of 20 people made up of five people with learning disabilities and/or autistic spectrum disorder, five family carers, five professional experts and five employers.

All the workshops to be held in March and April will be co-facilitated by people who have personal experiences of having a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorder.

Volunteers will consider new sets to support people positively with their behaviour, working in partnership with family carers, supporting people to be part of society and supporting people who have an autistic spectrum condition.

“These four knowledge sets will be vital in fully supporting people with a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorder so we’re looking for as many people as possible with relevant experience to volunteer to join the workshops,” says Skills for Care CEO Andrea Rowe.

“We want to hear what people who will have to work with these new knowledge sets have to think and everyone’s views will be taken into account when we produce the final documents in June.”

Potential volunteers should contact knowledgesets@skillsforcare.org.uk



News from Skills for Care London

Update London – Spring 2009 issue now available

The Spring 2009 issue of Update London, Skills for Care London's quarterly newsletter is now available from: http://london.skillsforcare.org.uk/regional_publications/update_london/update_london.aspx

The newsletter contains information on recent projects as well as updates from each of the 5 sub-regions.

Hard copies have been posted out this week – additional copies can be requested from Laura Anthony.

Continuing Professional Development Sessions for Assessor Network Members

ACTAN are running a series of CPD sessions in February and March for members of the Skills for Care London Assessor Network:

Venue	Session one 10.00 -12.30	Session two 1.30 - 4.00
18th February 09 Mulberry House, Tower Hamlets	Working with 'difficult' Candidates The session will be covering the following : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defining difficulties• Issues for adult learners• Strategies to support candidates in NVQ	Professional Discussion The session will be covering the following : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Professional Discussion?• How does it fit into the assessment process?• How to carry out a professional Discussion
13th March 09 Friends Meeting	The Changing World The session will be covering the following :	Working with 'difficult' Candidates The session will be covering the following :



<p>House, Euston</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining difficulties • Issues for adult learners • Strategies to support candidates in NVQ
<p>25th March 09</p> <p>Friends Meeting House, Euston</p>	<p>Assessing Knowledge of Theories in Health and Social Care NVQs</p> <p>The session will be covering the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How theories connect to assessment of HSC Level 3 • A Look at the theories • Strategies for assessment • Ways to support candidates to understand and provide evidence • 	<p>Professional Discussion</p> <p>The session will be covering the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Professional Discussion? • How does it fit into the assessment process? • How to carry out a professional Discussion
<p>TBA</p>	<p>Working with 'difficult' Candidates</p> <p>The session will be covering the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining difficulties • Issues for adult learners • Strategies to support candidates in NVQ 	<p>Assessing Knowledge of Theories in Health and Social Care NVQs</p> <p>The session will be covering the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How theories connect to assessment of HSC Level 3 • A Look at the theories • Strategies for assessment • Ways to support candidates to understand and provide evidence

For information about the Assessor Network & how to join, please contact Abir Alam: (020) 7471 6775 / abir.alam@skillsforcare.org.uk

Learning Disability Knowledge Sets – new toolkit launch

In 2008, Skills for Care launched a suite of Learning Disability Knowledge Sets that offer learners, employers and training providers a collection of key



learning outcomes for specific areas of work including the history and context of services, communication, independence and wellbeing.

Skills for Care London have developed an accompanying toolkit with training resources and example activities. It is hoped that the publication (which will be available in March 2009) will provide an enhanced level of underpinning knowledge that complements the Learning Disability Qualification.

Skills for Care London will be launching this FREE toolkit at two events:

- 31st March
- 2nd April

Please contact Hasca Ltd – info@hascald.co.uk / (01992) 633111 for further information and/or to book a place.

Achieving Training Quality Standard Part B Certification in Adult Social Care – FREE Workshop

Are you a training provider delivering adult social care training and qualifications who is either considering a part submission in 2009 and/or are keen to work with the New Standard as a continuous improvement tool.

If so, Skills for Care London are hosting a workshop that may be of interest to you:

Date: 24th February 2009 (10am – 1pm)

Venue: Southwark College, Waterloo Centre, The Cut, SE1 8LE

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Increase awareness of the Training Quality Standard Part B Certification in Adult Social Care
- Introduce the TQS Part B support materials for Adult Social Care
- Explore the business benefits of TQS Part B for the Adult Social Care sector



- Identify the needs of providers at a local level and explore the range of support available

At each workshop delegates will be able to explore with the facilitator and Skills for Care colleagues what constitutes a high quality TQS Part B submission and develop a customised action plan.

To book a place please contact Chidi Uche: chidiebere.uche@skillsforcare.org.uk / (020) 7471 6774

Progress your career in Adult Social Care by obtaining a National Vocational Qualification Level 2 or 3 in H&SC

Skills for Care are piloting an e-Portfolio route to gaining a Level 2 or Level 3 NVQ qualification together with E-assessment-4u (Ea4u).

Ea4u is able to offer, via **Government funding at no cost to the candidates or their employers** (subject to approval of application), a programme that enables candidates to achieve the NVQ qualification using online access to course materials combined with an e-assessment portfolio. **This means that you can work towards the qualification at a time that suits you, enabling you to finish the qualification more quickly, more flexibly and more efficiently without the need for regular attendance at classes.** You will also have access to workbooks and online learning to build the knowledge & understanding included in the NVQ.

All candidates are assigned a dedicated Care Tutor and Assessor, who will make sure you have computer access to the e-Portfolio, ensure you have made the right choice of qualification, visit you in your workplace and also be in communication with you online and on the telephone. Full training and support is provided on e-Portfolio and you have the chance to improve your IT skills as part of the programme.

Enrolments for candidates starting from January 2009 are now being taken. You can be assigned on the programme at any time and, within **2 weeks of the approval of your application**, you will be assigned your Assessor/Tutor and receive an Induction covering the requirements of the NVQ and training on the e-Portfolio.



If you are ready to apply, please contact Chidi Uche (chidiebere.uche@skillsforcare.org.uk / 020 7471 6774) for a copy of the application forms.

For further information about the programme, please contact Dennis Quilter on (07831) 146350 / dennis.quilter@gvqltd.co.uk

Care Ambassador Scheme – can you help?

Care Ambassadors are a team of passionate social care employees, volunteers, people who use services, and carers who use their knowledge, skills, experiences and enthusiasm to promote social care to others.

The scheme has been running in London since 2007, and its aim is to encourage more people (students, the long-term unemployed, etc) to consider a career in social care. It promotes a positive image of the social care sector and provides employers with a recruitment and retention strategy, Care Ambassadors with continual professional development and teachers with work related support.

Examples of Care Ambassador activity include:

- Delivering presentations about careers in care and focused sessions such as 'care planning'
- Leading or facilitating workshops using quizzes, scenarios & activities to enhance learning on specific topics such as communication
- Supporting recruitment initiatives and careers events, talking to delegates individually about the realities of working in social care

Care Ambassadors are currently being recruited in the following boroughs:

North Central London – Enfield and Haringey

North West London – Kensington & Chelsea, Ealing, Hillingdon and Hounslow (potential Care Ambassadors that have worked up the apprenticeship route would be welcome)



Further information about the scheme can be found at:
http://www.skillsforcarelondon.org.uk/qualifications_and_training/recruitment_and_retention/recruitment_and_retention.aspx

If you would like to discuss the scheme further or nominate someone from your organisation to become an Ambassador, please contact:

North Central London – Laura Anthony: (020) 7471 6772 /
laura.anthony@skillsforcare.org.uk

North West London – Sandeep Birk: (07875) 470969 /
sandeep.birk@skillsforcare.org.uk

Invitations to tender / Job Vacancies

Invitation to Tender: NHS Feasibility Study

Skills for Care is seeking consultants to explore the implications of sharing data from Skills for Care's National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC) and the National Health Service's (NHS) Electronic Staff Record (ESR) and to develop a project plan for implementing this. The tender will investigate the extent to which the two data sets are comparable in terms of data definitions, and consultation with relevant interested parties will be part of the project.

The objectives of this research are:

- to investigate the options available to the NHS and Skills for Care to begin sharing information and to identify the full implications of any option
- to investigate, analyse and evaluate how far the data definitions are in alignment between the two data sets and the broader social care sector as a whole
- to identify the work that may be required to develop data sharing and reporting protocols
- and to develop a project plan to implement the process.

For further information, please contact Adepeju Oikelome on (0113) 241 1270 or e-mail adepeju.oikelome@skillsforcare.org.uk



The tender must be received by 12pm on 13 March 2009 at Skills for Care Head Office, 5 Albion Place, Leeds LS1 6JL.

Events

NMDS-SC & London Local Authorities

Date: 26th February 2009

Venue: Great Russell Street Hotel, WC1B

Cost: FREE

A key event specifically designed to provide advice and guidance on implementing the National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC) in Local Authorities across the London region. The event will provide representatives from London's Local Authorities the opportunity to address the task of completing the NMDS-SC in their organisation.

For further information and/or to book a place, please visit the events section of the Skills for Care London website (www.skillsforcarelondon.org.uk).

Practice Learning Event for NE London Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector Organisations

Date: 26th February 2009

Time: 10am - 1pm (the event will end with lunch)

Venue: Express by Holiday Inn, Newbury Park

Cost: FREE

Skills for Care North East London is working to develop the range and quality of social work practice learning opportunities and to provide resources and support to PVI organisations which currently offer placements to social work students.

The workshop will look at the following:

- How to enable students to value and understand the practice learning opportunities within non-statutory organisations
- What works best? Sharing good practice examples of students' work and involvement including links to the social work key roles



- Ensuring the quality of placements
- Whether creating a PVI Practice Assessor / Supervisor Forum would be useful

For further information and/or to book a place, please download the flyer: http://london.skillsforcare.org.uk/events/Events_Listing/UpcomingEvents/NEL_PVI.aspx

Supporting Best Practice through the Post Qualifying Awards – a series of PQ Information Seminars for managers across London

The Post Qualifying Framework is designed to develop well-rounded practitioners, confident about working in inter-professional and inter-agency contexts with the capacity to respond to, and effect, change.

Skills for Care London and the CWDC have organised a series of PQ seminars across London for managers to explore the benefits of supporting staff to undertake a Post Qualifying Award. A number of universities will be contributing their thoughts about how post qualifying developments are addressing the policy drivers underpinning workforce reform including the Personalisation Agenda, Transforming Adult Social Care, Every Child Matters and the Social Work Taskforce. T

The seminars are being facilitated by Shirley Ayres - formerly Chief Officer at GLPQ.

Managers are invited to attend one of these unique seminars to find out how the Post Qualifying Awards:

- Develop and enhance social work values, knowledge and skills
- Broaden knowledge of social policy and legislation
- Increase the use of evidence based practice
- Encourage more effective networking and collaboration with colleagues from different backgrounds
- Enhance the sharing of knowledge and skills within teams
- Confirm the status of the consultant social worker



All attendees will receive a copy of the new Skills for Care London and CWDC publication “Making Sense of the Post Qualifying Awards – A Brief Guide for Employers”

Places are limited and advance booking is essential. If you have not yet received an invitation and would like to attend one of the seminars, please contact one of the sub-regional Post Qualifying/Practice Learning Co-ordinators listed below for a booking form and further information.

North West Sub Regional Seminar - 25th February (9.45 – 1pm), Hammersmith Town Hall - Dionne.Collins@lbhf.gov.uk

South East - 26th February, 9.45 - 2pm (including lunch), London South Bank University - helen.moss@southwark.gov.uk

North East Sub - 2nd March (9.45 – 1pm), Mulberry Place Town Hall - ali.rusbridge@towerhamlets.gov.uk

North Central - 4th March (2pm – 5pm), The Resource Centre, Holloway Road - juliet.hammond@towerhamlets.gov.uk

South West - 6th March (9.45 – 1pm), Fairfield Halls, Croydon - pjmlearning@live.co.uk

North East London Conference: *planning a personalised workforce*

Date: 18th March 2009

Venue: Old Town Hall, Stratford, E15

Cost: FREE

The conference, which is hosted by Skills for Care London, aims to bring together key individuals, organisations and speakers from the sector. Delegates will be able to learn more about the expectant changes in adult social care and how these will impact current services.



To download the flyer & booking form, please visit the events section of the Skills for Care London website (www.skillsforcareslondon.org.uk).

This conference is for North East London only.

North Central London Conference: *transforming your workforce to meet the personalisation agenda*

Date: 5th March 2009

Venue: Resource Centre, Holloway Road

Cost: FREE

The conference, which is hosted by Skills for Care London, will give delegates the opportunity to examine and discuss the opportunities arising from the personalisation agenda.

To download the flyer & booking form, please visit the events section of the Skills for Care London website (www.skillsforcareslondon.org.uk).

There are trade stand opportunities at this conference for any training provider interested. The stands come at a small fee of £125 (price up until end of January, 2009) and can be reserved by emailing Cheryl Gregory - cheryl.gregory@skillsforcare.org.uk

This conference is for North Central London only.

Skills for Care National Conference 2009 - The Great Skills Debate: *Maximising Your People's Potential*

Date: 24th February 2009

Venue: Hilton Park Lane Hotel, London

Cost: £220 + VAT

Understanding the strategic and practical framework of workforce development is vital if organisations and employers are to make the most of their staff. The work of Skills for Care over the past seven years has shown that those organisations that are able to adapt to the changing demands of



the social care sector and train their staff appropriately are able to ensure their place as leaders in the field.

The Skills for Care Annual Conference 2009 will allow you to understand the current developments in workforce issues and the challenges that face the sector. Through a combination of plenary sessions, discussions, panel debates and workshops, the conference will allow delegates to explore the issues pertinent to maximising the potential of your staff and to network with colleagues from across the country.

Key speakers include:

- Phil Hope Minister for State, Department of Health (invited)
- David Croisdale-Appleby, Chair, Skills for Care
- Question Time with leading figures in the social care field, chaired by David Brindle, Public Sector Editor, Guardian

To view the programme and/or to book your place visit www.olm-pavilion.co.uk/skillsforcare09 or call 0844 880 5061

Other

Work placement opportunities sought

Hamilton Douglas Solutions Limited (HDS) is a training provider delivering free quality training to unemployed people within the community. The aims and objectives of HDS (in partnership with the Haringey Education Business Partnership and Connexions North London) are to give the young people / adults relevant up-to-date skills to meet the needs of the labour market.

HDS is seeking organisations within the boroughs of **Enfield, Waltham Forest, Barnet & Haringey** who can offer work placements to the clients that HDS work with.

As well as work experience, organisations would also be offering the employee:

- The chance to develop good working ethics



- The chance to update their skills and to attain sustainable employment
- An opportunity to make him/herself indispensable, thus leading to a full time position.
- An opportunity to develop new skills within their current job role

If you are able to offer a placement, or would like further information, please contact Jackie on (020) 8375 3676 / Hmltndgls@aol.com

