

News from Skills for Care National

Evidence required for Migration Advisory Committee on the occupational shortage list (recruitment into social care from outside the European Economic Area)

Some social care employers have relied upon workers from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) to deliver services. Occupations included on the national occupation shortage list indicate that there is a need for recruitment from outside the EEA. The list currently contains these occupations from our sector: **social workers, care assistants and home carers (skilled senior care workers).**

However, these may be taken off the list unless evidence from the sector indicates that there is a need for recruitment from outside the EEA making it very difficult for individuals requiring a work permit to do so for these roles.

As a Sector Skills Council, we have been asked to support employers in presenting evidence on social workers, care assistants and home carers to the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to inform the revision of the shortage occupation list.

The MAC are now considering further evidence (both factual and anecdotal) relating to social workers, and care assistants and home carers. **We urge employers/stakeholders to submit evidence that may substantiate their arguments for these occupations to remain on the occupational shortage list and comment on why this is important and the rate of the pay that is attached to the senior care worker role.**



To contribute to this consultation please view the briefing that is attached to this e-mail for more information and complete the attached form with your information and evidence.

Forms should be returned to Annette Baines - annette.baines@skillsforcare.org.uk by the **23rd January 2009**

News from Skills for Care London

FREE Workshop - involvement of people who use services in the recruitment & training of staff – LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

Skills for Care London are running a FREE workshop on the 19th January 2009 (2pm - 4pm) at Brent Town Hall.

The purpose of this workshop is to share information about the Skills for Care North West London initiative around involving people who use services in staff recruitment & training. **This workshop is open to employers from all London boroughs.**

The session will cover:

- Why we are involving PWUS in the recruitment and training of staff / links to personalisation
- The approach and success in piloting this “Skills for Care” initiative across sectors and Local Authorities
- The sharing of experiences and ideas about developing this work
- Learning points for future work

For further information and for a copy of the booking form, please download the workshop flyer:

http://london.skillsforcare.org.uk/sub_regions/north_west_london/north_west_london.aspx?



FREE Information Surgeries - *Training and Workforce Development for NE and NC London*

Skills for Care will be running an FREE information surgery on the **28th January 2009** at the Express by Holiday Inn, Newbury Park, IG2 and **5th February 2009** (at the Resource Centre, Holloway Road).

The surgery on the 28th January is open to employers in the following boroughs: Barking & Dagenham, City of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets & Waltham Forest.

The surgery on the 5th February is open to employers in the following boroughs: Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Islington.

If you would like to receive one-to-one advice on the following, complete and return the booking form (available from cheryl.gregory@skillsforcare.org.uk) without delay:

- Impartial advice for funded NVQ level 2,3 and 4
- Advice on how to access funded Skills for Life courses (Numeracy and Literacy)
- Information on the £1,000 Leadership and Management grant available to your organisation
- Information on the Skills Pledge and the benefits to your organisation
- Completion of the National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC)
- Information on Skills for Care activities in your sub-region
- Information for employers on how to get your voice heard.

Booking forms will be available to download from the North East and North Central sections of the Skills for Care London website shortly or by emailing Cheryl Gregory - cheryl.gregory@skillsforcare.org.uk

Skills for Care North West London - FREE Workshops in 2009

Skills for Care London are running two FREE days of workshops in 2009:

- Thursday 22nd January 2009 in the Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



- Tuesday 3rd February 2009 in the Borough of Ealing.

Both events are open to social care employers in Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster.

We are proposing to hold four workshops on each day, with topics to include:

- Understanding Dementia
- Personalisation
- Medication Awareness
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

For further information and for a copy of the booking form, please download the workshop flyer: http://london.skillsforcare.org.uk/sub_-_regions/north_west_london/north_west_london.aspx?

Invitations to tender / Job Vacancies

Department of Health: Social Care and Local Partnerships -
Regional (London) Social Care Performance Improvement
Manager

Salary: Circa £50 – 60k

The Department of Health has created a new regional social care team based at Government Office London (GOL). This team will work with local authorities and partners in London as well as other government departments to help in the implementation of government policy.

The DH is looking for someone to be either employed on fixed term contract or seconded for 18 months into this team. This will provide an excellent career development opportunity for people keen to get a regional understanding of policy implementation, and service improvement on a regional basis.

You will be in a team managed by Ian Winter, the Deputy Regional Director for Adult Social Care, and will be part of the London regional social care



team. You will also be part of the wider regional DH team of public health and social care.

The postholder will be based in GOL, Riverwalk House but there may be room for some flexibility with regard to homeworking for part of the week.

To be considered you must have experience of working in local government or social care and if you want to be seconded your application must have the support of your employer.

The job description and person specification can be obtained from Ian Winter – (07866) 639762 / Ian.Winter@dh.gsi.gov.uk

The closing date is Monday, 9 February at 9am and interviews will be held on Wednesday, 18 February at GOL

Events

Fit for purpose? Practice Education in the current climate

Date: 28th January 2008

Venue: The Albany, Deptford, SE8

Cost: FREE

Keynote speakers at this event will be:

Dr Donald Forrester – Reader in Child Welfare, University of Bedford

Joan Fletcher – Lecturer in Social Work, Service User and Carer Group
Conveyor, Goldsmiths, University of London

Workshops to include:

- working with service users and carers
- continuing professional development
- models of practice learning - borough exemplars of good practice
- getting the most out of a placement
- practice issues - support for BME practice educators



PLUS - the opportunity to meet with universities across the region in the marketplace and the launch of Skills for Care London's Practice Learning CD-Rom

For further information and/or to book a place, please contact Helen Moss – helen.moss@southwark.gov.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.

A number of different workshops will be run during the day, including:

- The roles & responsibilities of employers in safeguarding adults
- Developing effective leadership & management
- Moving forward into dementia care

The flyer & the booking form for this event can be downloaded from: <http://london.skillsforcare.org.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=325&slD=76>

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 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.

A number of different workshops will be run during the day, including:

- Transforming your workforce: new types of working in action
- Practice Learning
- Safeguarding Adults - the new vetting and barring scheme (workshop to be run by the Department of Health)

The flyer and booking form for this event are available to download from:

<http://london.skillsforcare.org.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=329&slD=74>

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.

Practice Learning Event for the Private, Voluntary & Independent Sector – South East and South West London

Date: 20th January 2009 (9.30am – 1.30pm)

Venue: Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 1DG

Cost: FREE



Does your organisation provide a practice learning placement to a social work student? Would you like to learn more about the benefits of becoming involved in social work education?

Skills for Care in South East and South West London invite you to a half-day event where you can find out more about practice learning in the private, voluntary and independent sector.

There will be a range of presentations and opportunities to network and share good practice, plus the launch of a new learning resource for social work placement providers.

For further information and/or to book a place please contact Taufiq Hasan (learning&development.student@croydon.gov.uk) if you are based in South West London and Louisa Imanene (louisa.imanene@southwark.gov.uk) if you are based in South East London.

Practice Learning Event for the Private, Voluntary & Independent Sector – North West London

Date: 5th February 2009

Venue: Hammersmith Town Hall, King St, W6 9JU

Cost: FREE

- If your organisation provides a practice learning placement to a social work student
- If you are interested in learning more about the benefits of becoming involved in practice learning and social work education

...then join us for the launch of our resource pack in the Assembly Hall on Thursday 5th February 2009

For further information and/or to book a place, please contact Dionne Collins – dionne.collins@lbhf.gov.uk



Skills for Care National Conference 2009 - The Great Skills Debate: *Maximising Your People's Potential* – PROGRAMME & BOOKING FORM NOW AVAILABLE

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

Personalisation, Support brokerage and the Independent Support Broker

Date: 11th February 2008

Venue: Holiday Inn London Bloomsbury

Cost: £115 + VAT



Finding and accessing community resources and new opportunities to replace traditional services is not an easy task. The 'broker' concept is one important way of providing this help and support.

This conference will:

- Share the conclusions from Skills for Care about training for independent support brokers
- Consider how different types of brokerage can each contribute to a new pattern of service and supports
- Look at the implications of brokerage for local authority contracting & procurement
- Hear about the practical experience of introducing independent support brokerage at a local level

This conference will be of interest to anyone involved in developing the personalisation agenda, and in particular people who are:

- Leading or working on the personalisation agenda at a local level
- Developing brokerage or working as a broker
- Working as a care manager or service provider and who will be working with brokers in the future
- Use services or are the family member of someone who uses services
- Adult social care training managers
- Involved in contracting or procurement for local authorities

To book a place, please visit: <http://www.centevents.co.uk/bookingform.aspx>

Managing New Realities 2009 – Personalisation: Everyone's Business

Date: 3rd & 4th March 2009

Venue: Inmarsat Conference Centre, London

Cost: £245 (+VAT) - £595 (+VAT)

Now in its sixth year, this event looks at the future shape of care and support and brings together professionals in health, housing and social care to examine how these services can be improved and integrated.



Last year, the focus was on the challenges of personalisation asking how we can deliver self-directed care. This year will be looking at how that agenda could expand across other areas, for instance, transport and leisure, to create better services. Key issues such as accessing services, the importance of local leadership and the resources needed to deliver services that meet local and individual needs will be included.

Key speakers include:

- Liam Byrne, Minister for the Cabinet Office
- Julie Jones OBE, chief executive, SCIE
- Dame Jane Campbell OBE, chair, Equality and Human Rights Commission Disability Committee
- David Behan CBE, director general of social care, Department of Health
- Paul Cann, chief executive, Help the Aged

For further information & a copy of the programme, please visit:
<http://www.pavpub.com/mailings/c.mnr-03.09/mnr.pdf>

Other

Common Assessment Framework for Adults - A consultation on proposals to improve information sharing around multi-disciplinary assessment and care planning

The Department of Health have launched a consultation on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and would like to invite employers to contribute through the online consultation facility or by attending one of the regional consultation events.

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for Adults is a generic approach to assessing the health and social care needs of individual adults. It aims to support improved co-ordination between health and social care services.



Consultation events are being held as follows:

- 22nd January 2009 - London **last places remaining**
- 27th January 2009 - Newcastle
- 29th January 2009 - Nottingham
- 3rd February 2009 - London
- 5th February 2009 - Manchester
- 11th February 2009 - Bristol
- 17th February 2009 - Leeds
- 19th February 2009 - Birmingham

For further information, and or/to book a place, please visit:

www.dh.gov.uk/caf

FREE English Communication courses for employees working in health & social care

Do any of your staff need to improve their English speaking, reading or writing skills?

If so, IHTS can help. Government funding has been received to run FREE courses in employers' workplaces.

The training will help employees to:

- understand and use "colloquial" English and everyday expressions with colleagues and clients
- be more confident talking on the telephone and taking messages
- reduce errors when writing care plans, reports, letters, notes and emails
- be more confident in completing NVQ Portfolios

Short numeracy courses are also offered.

The courses are tailor-made specifically for staff working in health & social care. They take place on employers' own premises at times that fit in with their work schedule. A minimum of five learners are needed to run a course.



Staff in all job roles (Care Assistants, Cooks, Nurses, Cleaners, Caretakers, etc) are eligible.

All courses lead to City & Guilds qualifications in English Language, Literacy, Numeracy or the National Tests (GCSE level).

For further information, please call Lesley or Michelle on (020) 8446 9778 or e-mail info@ihts.co.uk

Adult Learners' Week Awards 2009 – LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE

Employers are being asked to mark the achievements of adult learners by nominating them for the Adult Learners' Week Awards 2009.

The awards for Adult Learners' Week (9th – 15th May 2009) illustrate the extraordinary achievements, of adult learners – young, old and in all their diversity. To nominate, visit www.alw.org.uk/nominate where you can download forms or request a paper form - nominations can be submitted online or returned by post.

Nomination forms are also available on audiocassette and in other languages from the NIACE Campaigns Team. For your form telephone (0116) 2044200, or email alw@niace.org.uk.

The closing date for nominations in England is **Wednesday 21st January 2009 (by 5pm)**.

LSC Apprenticeship Competition

The search is on to find the nation's top Apprenticeship employers as the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) launches its prestigious sixth annual competition.

The health and social care sector has seen past success at the annual Apprenticeship Awards with two employers shortlisted in last year's awards and one apprentice highly commended in the Young Apprentice category.



This is available for anyone who is 19 or over; legally resident in England – **no 3 year residency rule**; employed by a health and social care provider with less than 250 staff.

There are opportunities to progress to higher levels of ESOL qualification and there is help for those who need to improve literacy or numeracy.

Contact: Lewis on (020) 8426 2666, e-mail: lewis.huxley@iga-group.co.uk

