

Skills for Care: 'The Big Event'

Existing customers will know that Venus Training & Consultancy have been keeping you informed about the developments on the Skills for Care project - Creating Learning Cultures.

To celebrate the project and disseminate the findings we can now announce that there will now be a conference for care providers.

Entitled; 'The Big Event', the proceedings will be held at Sandy Park Conference Centre (Exeter) on the 7th June 2007 (9:45 - 4pm).

This event is for you if you are:

- A care service proprietor, manager or employee
- Looking to improve your inspection report
- Working in isolation and feeling stressed
- Keen to attract and keep capable staff
- Trying to keep up with changing requirements
- New to the care sector
- Looking for inspiration, support and practical know-how

'The Big Event' offers:

- Informal debate and conversation
- An opportunity to exchange ideas and help shape the care agenda
- A combination of workshops with real expertise on key issues such as: How to get the most from your staff, The role of leadership and Managing inspection
- A chance to meet and share hard-won experience with fellow care professionals

You will come away with:

- A package of 'hot tips' for immediate practical steps and a wealth of ideas to improve your organisation
- A guidebook for managers - hot off the press - full of practical proven advice, written with care home managers, in plain English.
- Free membership of the Learning Exchange - a valuable local forum for mutual support and learning.

If you are interested in attending please contact staff at Venus for more details & prices including the discounted rate.



Website will support employers

Skills for Care have introduced a new website to support employers.

The site engages with the full range of users connected with recruitment, retention and the development of people either wishing to enter the care sector or progress through it.

The website is easy to navigate and contains virtual tours, interviews and a series of resources, many of which are free to download or order.

Visit the site on:

<http://www.preview1.co.uk/nt2020/employers.asp>

Skills for Care South West are also producing regular bulletins which are free to receive.

These include information on regional projects, regional and national news and useful resources.

To subscribe to the bulletins email the editor, Trevor Bevins on trevor.bevins@virgin.net

Train to Gain now available from Venus

Train to Gain is a service provided by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses get the training they need to succeed.

Train to Gain is important because without a skilled workforce businesses will not be able to compete, jobs will be lost and fewer people will be able to get the jobs they want.

We are pleased to inform you that Venus Training & Consultancy have teamed up with another local training provider to be able to offer Train to Gain places to your staff to complete a level 2 NVQ.

To be eligible for the free training learners must meet the following criteria:

- Over the age of 19
- Must have a National Insurance Number / lived within the European Union for 3 or more years
- Have no previous level 2 qualifications

These places are limited and learners will be required to attend some tutorials in the Plymouth area so please contact us swiftly for more information.

If you are outside of the Plymouth area there will be other colleges and training providers offering Train to Gain nearer to you.

To find your local providers contact Business Link or LSC:

<http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/>



CSCI new site

Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI) launched their new website for care professionals in April 2007.

There are other large changes happening within CSCI and it is helpful to keep an eye on the website or subscribe to their newsletter to keep yourself up to date. In particular owners and managers should be up to date with the following sections on the website:

Self assessment for care providers:

<http://www.csci.org.uk/professional/default.aspx?page=7226&csci=1951>

New Quality Ratings –

Inspecting for Better Lives:

http://www.csci.org.uk/professional/about_csci/publications/view.aspx?csci=1645

KLORA

(Key Lines of Regulatory Assessment):

http://www.csci.org.uk/professional/about_csci/publications/view.aspx?csci=1565

To subscribe to the CSCI newsletter follow this link:

http://www.csci.org.uk/professional/Sign_up_to_our_newsletter.aspx

Venus Training and Consultancy are introducing a free online toolkit to help you meet statutory requirements and recommendations highlighted in your CSCI inspections. Please contact us for more information.



Qualification in Coaching on offer

Venus Training and Consultancy are pleased to be offering another qualification in addition to our existing selection.

Coaching in the Workplace is part of the Learning and Development NVQ offered through City and Guilds.

This award, which consists of four units, is aimed at learners who are at work in a position which enables them to assist others in their development. They will also evaluate their own performance and develop practice.

This award is a good way of developing skills such as listening, supporting others, enhancing morale and motivation.

Overall coaching enables individuals to be more aware and able to set goals and achieve results within specific time-scales.

Sarah Lancaster of Venus Training & Consultancy recently undertook a course in Coaching. She told *e-nlighten* how much her views of coaching have now changed;

"I would say at first I underestimated just how powerful it could be. We use coaching now within the company and have experienced positive outcomes from this."

If you are interested in this award or want more information please contact us.

Learning Services

Social Care Information and Learning Services (SCiLs) is an independent organisation providing information and learning services to health, social care, education and housing. They provide a subscription website which contains individual learning sessions (up to 1 1/2 hours in length and covering a range of topics), group learning sessions, learning needs analysis tools, news desk and a discussions board. Many local authorities have purchased block subscriptions to the site which means that you can have free access.

For a list of local authorities who offer this visit the SCiLs website and follow the link: www.scils.co.uk



Keep the Faith

The Festival Shop is a website offering multi-faith, multi-cultural and citizenship resources. The business started over 14 years ago with the realisation that we did not know enough about the multi-faith and multi-cultural world in which we lived.

From this they produced 'The Festival Year' which is a free online calendar that teaches us a little about many faith traditions through their festivals.

This resource will be useful for care staff, in particular those caring for service users from a variety of faiths and cultures. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.festivalshop.co.uk/portals/0/faithfacts/default.asp?url=/portals/0/faithfacts/introduction/intro.htm>

Venus Training & Consultancy also offer training in Equality and Diversity.

Don't forget to pay our website a visit for news, bulletins and information that can be of further use to you.

See you next issue!

Advocacy

Advocacy is speaking up for, or acting on behalf of, yourself or another person. Advocacy can help service users by:

- Clarifying views and wishes and representing them effectively
- Providing independent advice and accurate information
- Assisting individuals to express their views

Advocacy is something that each of us will need at some point in our lives.

Examples of this would be:

- A parent having their child's best interests at heart
- A solicitor explaining a contract
- A Doctor describing an illness and possible treatments

For more information and a useful free handout you can print out for your staff please visit:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/319F70A9-C8D0-4AEB-81B1-D747E8959EC5/0/Advocacy.pdf>

DOH Bulletin Enjoys Successful Trial

The Department of Health have now launched a new Social Care Bulletin which has been specially developed for all staff working in social care.

Following a successful pilot edition in January 2006 they have now launched the bulletin as a free quarterly publication. Its aim is to support you and your staff in your everyday role, bringing you up to date with easy to read explanations of latest policy news and initiatives.

To subscribe to the bulletin email socialcarebulletinsubscription@dh.gsi.gov.uk including your name, job title, organisation, full postal address and telephone number. You will then receive an email alert when each new edition is published.



Trial Bulletin: Jan 2006