

## Name Yourself a Winner

**H**ave you thought about nominating a member of your staff, your organisation or even yourself for an award?

This may feel like blowing your own trumpet however, hard work and dedication should be celebrated and owners / managers / organisations should not be too modest.

Even just the process of nominating can focus the mind on positive achievements and possible improvements. Knowing that an individual, team or organisation has been nominated for an award will boost moral. To win an award (or even be a runner up) is a huge achievement and will bring with it recognition as well as marketing opportunities for your organisation.

Some examples of industry related awards include:

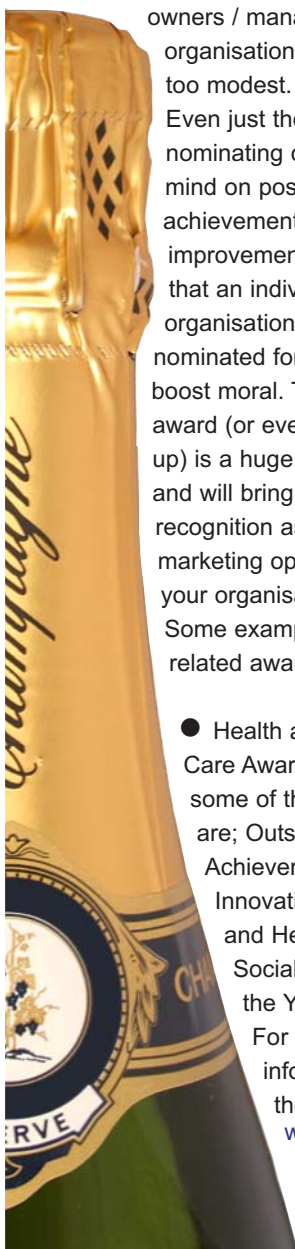
- Health and Social Care Awards for which some of the categories are; Outstanding Achiever of the Year, Innovative Technology and Health and Social Care Team of the Year.

For more information visit the website on:  
[www.healthandsocialcareawards.org](http://www.healthandsocialcareawards.org)

- Skills for Care Accolades; now in its 5th year the Accolades recognise employers, staff and training providers' hard work and commitment. It is seen as being one of the most prestigious events of the social care calendar. For further information visit the website on:  
[www.skillsforcare.org.uk/view.asp?id=669](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/view.asp?id=669)

Other examples of awards include: Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) annual People Management Awards:  
[www.cipd.co.uk/about/awards/people/default.htm](http://www.cipd.co.uk/about/awards/people/default.htm)

Working Families Employer Awards:  
[www.workingfamilies.org.uk/asp/awards/aya\\_awards\\_2006.asp](http://www.workingfamilies.org.uk/asp/awards/aya_awards_2006.asp)



Name yourself and you could soon be celebrating

## Anticipating 2007

**H**appy New Year to all our e-nlighten readers and welcome to the first edition of the year.

Everyone at Venus Training & Consultancy Ltd hopes that you continue to find this newsletter a useful resource and it helps you with your professional development in 2007. We would like to hear your feedback and suggestions for articles you would like to see appear in future editions. Similarly if you have any good news stories or information you would like to share with other readers, please send it to us along with any pictures at the usual email address.

We can even accommodate short videos on these pages, so if you or your staff film anything exciting that that you would like to share then let us know!

## Diary Date

**I**n the last edition we gave details of a project commissioned by Skills for Care which is focused on creating learning cultures in care homes within the South West. To celebrate and disseminate the findings of the project there will be an event on 7th June 2007. The event will be held in Exeter and more details will follow. There will be guest speakers and interactive workshops. If you are interested in attending please contact staff at Venus for more details.

# New Quals will Prepare 14-19's for Career Choices



The 14 – 19 Education and Skills white paper, published in Feb 2005, set out the Government's proposals to improve secondary, post 16 and further education. New qualifications called Specialised Diplomas are being developed as part of these reforms.

Diplomas will be available in 14 lines of learning at levels 1, 2 and 3 covering all sectors of the economy. By 2013 all learners aged between 14 – 19 years will be entitled to undertake a diploma. Between 2008 and 2013 the diplomas will be piloted by Local Authorities who are successful in the Department for Education

and Skills (DfES) gateway process and can demonstrate that they will deliver to a high standard.

The Health and Social Care line of learning has developed the Society,

Health and Development Diploma. It will combine a range of theory, knowledge and practice, related to health, social care, child care and justice. The design will help to prepare and enable young people to make choices and access a range of careers and opportunities across the sectors.



The content of the diploma is being developed in collaboration with health and social care employers and they will also play a key role in the delivery of Diplomas. You may be contacted by your local schools, colleges and training providers to offer work placement

opportunities or to deliver teaching sessions and tours of your premises. For more information visit the Quality Curriculum Authority (QCA) website on: [www.qca.org.uk/17046.html](http://www.qca.org.uk/17046.html)

## Abuse Action

In June 2006 Action on Elder Abuse launched their new, updated website which is designed to provide accurate and useful information on the state of elder abuse prevention within the UK and Ireland.



Protection advice

Action on Elder Abuse (AEA) is a charity working to protect and prevent the abuse of vulnerable older adults.

The website contains free information, advice and downloads for both owners, managers and staff members (particularly useful for those undertaking NVQ's and other training). Visit the website at:

[www.elderabuse.org.uk](http://www.elderabuse.org.uk)

or phone them on 08088088141.

Additional information on the Protection Of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) can be obtained from the department of health website:

[www.dh.gov.uk/policyandguidance/healthandsocialcaretopics/socialcare/pova/fs/en](http://www.dh.gov.uk/policyandguidance/healthandsocialcaretopics/socialcare/pova/fs/en)

Venus Training and Consultancy offer short courses in POVA, for more information contact us or visit our website.

## Time For A Reality Check

Reality Check – the training board games have been created by SPA Training Ltd.

There are currently two games in the series and more are being developed.

The care level 2 game has been designed to meet the standards of the Health and Social Care (level 2) NVQ and induction standards.

The first aid game has been designed to meet legislative requirements.

The games offer a fun and innovative approach to staff training and development. They will help your staff to meet induction requirements, learn your organisations policies and procedures, produce evidence for NVQ's and build teams.

Time spent playing the game will also count towards CSCI requirements for staff training.

The game requires a facilitator (or games master) who should be a senior member of the team. Spa Training Ltd offer free training for those nominated to take on this role, helping to make the experience meaningful.

For more information, or to purchase a game please contact staff at Venus Training and Consultancy Ltd.

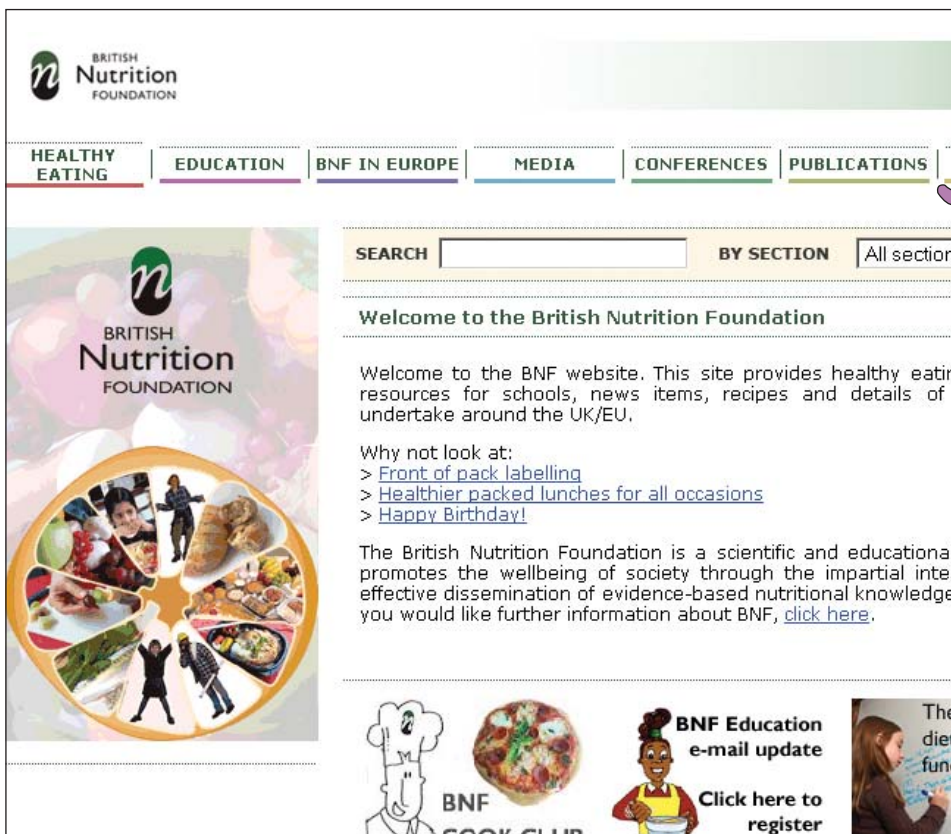
# Food for Thought

The British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) promotes the nutritional wellbeing of society through the impartial interpretation and effective dissemination of scientifically based nutritional knowledge and advice. It works in partnership with academic and research institutes, the food industry, educators and government. The foundation influences all in the food chain, government, the professions and the media. It is a charitable organisation.

The website offers information, advice, guidance and statistics most of which is free. Although some is aimed at schools teaching younger learners, there is much which will be useful to owners, managers, staff and cooks working in the care sector.

Visit the website: [www.nutrition.org.uk](http://www.nutrition.org.uk)

Venus Training and Consultancy offer the Certificate in Nutrition, contact us for more information.



## Mission to Transform

In Control is a leading UK partnership with a mission to change the organisation of social care in England so that people who need support can take more control of their own lives and fulfil their role as full citizens.

In Control aims to see a complete transformation of social care into a system of self-directed support.

The website is aimed at anyone who uses social care support including people with learning disabilities, disabled and older people.

It is designed to be easily accessed by service users with all abilities.

In control's partners / sponsors include Mencap, Valuing People Support Team and the Department of Health. Many councils and PCT's are members also.

Much of the information and guidance on the website is free and it also includes details of a training and support network for providers of social care.

Membership in the network offers workshops (including action learning sets), bespoke advice, e-learning opportunities and briefings on policy and practice.

For more information, visit the website at: [www.in-control.org.uk](http://www.in-control.org.uk)

## National Charity Offers Free Advice

Counsel and Care is a national charity established in 1954 by Bob Graham in response to the poor levels of care experienced by many older people. The charity aims to get the best care and support for older people, their families and carers. They do this by providing advice, information and financial support and by influencing future policies, services and funding. The charity has an easy to access website which provides free fact sheets and other information. They also have a

dedicated advice line. Visit the website at: [www.counselandcare.org.uk](http://www.counselandcare.org.uk)

