



Launch of New Website for Decha

www.decha.org.uk

Decha this month has launched its new website offering a number of benefits to its membership.

Back in October Craig Rowbotham, alliance manager, set out the vision for providing easy access to decha's members for information advice and guidance and improving its service.

The launch of a redesigned website was one of the mechanisms highlighted in the communications strategy, which was a primary focus at the AGM at Durham Cricket Club on the 8th October.

Craig said: " We are aiming to provide a single point of access to the alliance for its membership. Decha offers a myriad of services from short course and e-learning programmes to commissioned qualifications from NVO's in Health and Social Care to Medication distant learning qualifications."

"Also the website will keep our membership up to date with current legislation, local initiatives and funding streams for training."

The website is a system designed specifically for decha to provide a much simpler and more accessible service. The website also provides to the decha team the facility to update content instantaneously.

Features the new website will include:

- ◆ Article page where news will be posted about new initiatives and legislation.
- ◆ Information about the alliance and how to become a member.
- ◆ Information about TSI and Train to Gain funding.
- ◆ Training pages to allow easy access to our short course and e-learning programme, including web links to the e-learning packages.
- ◆ Qualification page where all commissioned qualifications which are fully funded by the alliance can be accessed.
- ◆ Events page where all conferences and local events can be posted to promote local initiatives.
- ◆ Electronic Library page which will provide all the documents required from TSI application forms to the training programmes etc. If a document is required this should be your first port of call!
- ◆ Most of all a contact page is available to allow you to contact the team if you require additional support.

If you would like further information or support please contact Craig Rowbotham on 0191 3835539.

End of Life Strategy launched to help improve personalised care

Improving the knowledge and skills of everyone who provide services to people at the end of their lives is at the heart of the recently launched End of Life Care Strategy.

Skills for Care and Skills for Health, in partnership with the NHS End of Life Care programme and the Department of Health, are developing a set of common core principles that will improve the competency of health, social care and others who have a role in end of life care through improved training and education.

This month a draft set of principles have been published for consultation and as part of the consultation process a web page -www.endoflifestaffdevelopment.org.uk - is now live so individuals and organisations can comment on the principles and competencies.

Skills for Care and Skills for Health will be also directly contacting national, regional and local stakeholders to make sure there is maximum input into making sure the principles are fit for purpose.

As well as consulting widely on these new principles a number of pilot projects will be thoroughly testing the principles on the frontline. These pilot sites will be drawn from across health and social care settings with the explicit aim of using the learning from the sites to ensure that the principles and competencies reflect practice realities and improve education and training.

"This project is a great opportunity to promote the importance of end of life care across the social and healthcare community including all workers in the independent, voluntary and private sector workforce," says Claire Henry, National Programme Director for the National End of Life Care Programme. "This will allow us to build on examples of good practice and standards of care for all those who are affected by end of life issues.

"We will be developing this project in collaboration with a whole range of people currently working in this sector and our aim is to produce tools and support based on clear values and competences that can be used by every member of this workforce to improve the patient and carer experience."

In the summer of 2009 the common core principles of end of life care will be published at two launch events in Manchester and London.

Personalisation: a rough guide

This guide provides an up to date position statement about the personalisation of adult social care services. It is intended to set out current understanding of personalisation at a very early stage of implementation, exploring what personalisation is, where the idea came from and placing the transformation of adult social care in the wider public service reform agenda.

The report focuses on the following key areas:

- Identifying and transferring knowledge about good practice, and SCIE's special role in transforming adult social care services.
- Person-centred planning and self-directed support becoming more mainstream
- Development of universal services such as transport, housing and education which are accessible to all citizens.
- The personalised system being cost-effective and sustainable in the long term.
- Approaches to early intervention and prevention need to develop further so that people are encouraged to stay healthy and independent.
- The social care workforce acquiring new skills.

To access this report you can download it from:
<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report20.asp>

Funded Access to e-Learning Libraries

decha reveals how they can help you with your training and development needs.

As part of the ongoing training opportunities provided by decha you and your staff are offered free access to over 150 courses covering a range of topics including Social Care and Health, Health and Safety, Desktop Computer training and Business and Personal Improvement courses.

E-Learning

E-learning is an alternative method of gaining new skills in today's working environment. Courses can be accessed 24/7 in bite size chunks, you don't have to wait for classroom listings, you can do the course when it suits you.

Each course/module lasts approximately 30 – 40 minutes. You can split the course into smaller chunks using the Ivy learning management system which remembers what point you left the course. Tracking your progress from one session to the next so you never lose track of where you are.

The Courses

There are four e-learning libraries to choose from:

Social Care and Health

Giving you access to an ever increasing range of current Social Care and Health issues including: Safe Guarding Adults, Dementia, Epilepsy and Substance Misuse. These courses have been specifically written by Durham County Council to provide you up to date information and advice on hot topics.

Health and Safety

Giving you access to 14 courses, including slips, trips and falls, health and safety at work, managing health and safety, visual display unit (VDU), manual handling, staying safe with electricity, noise and hazardous substances.

Business Essentials

Giving you access to 50 courses, including time management, meeting management, coaching, questioning, delegation, listening skills, recruitment and body language.

Desktop Computing

Giving you access to over a 100 courses including Basic Computing, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Plus materials to help you gain formal qualifications such as ECDL, ITQ and CLAiT.

The Benefits

Learners will be able to study at a time that is convenient to them and anywhere with internet access. Courses can be undertaken at your leisure at home or within your place of work. You may also find these libraries as useful reference materials or even incorporate them into your new starter induction programme.

Getting involved

If you would like to get involved please contact Gemma Cook on 0191 383 3274 or email gemma.cook@durham.gov.uk for further information.

E-Learning Taster Session—Decha will soon be holding a taster session for members to try out e-learning courses. Come along and try out one of the new e-learning courses which include: Desktop Applications, Dementia Awareness, Epilepsy Awareness. No experience is required and you will have access to over one hundred e-learning courses. The taster session will be held on **Wednesday 14th January 2009** at Bullion Hall, Chester-le-Street.

There will be four taster sessions throughout the day at the following times:

9:30 – 10:30am

11:00 – 12:00pm

1:00 – 2:00pm

2:30 – 3:30pm

There will be a short 20 minute presentation / demonstration at the beginning of each session then attendees can try e-learning for themselves.

Don't worry if you are not already signed up to e-learning as attendees can be signed up on the day to do an e-learning course. If you wish to book a place please call **Gemma Cook** on **0191 3833274**, please state which date and which session you wish to attend. Confirmation letters and maps will be sent out prior to the event.

Please note that the taster session to be held on the 11th January at Spennymoor Leadership Centre has now been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Training Strategy Implementation Fund 2008/2009

As members of DECHA you will be able to claim back funding for any NVO, Induction or Foundation Modules successfully completed by your team, through TSI.

In order to claim TSI Funding the NMDS-SC (National Minimum Data Set- Social Care) organisational questionnaire must be completed and sent to Skills for Care in Leeds. Each decha member will receive a unique NMDS-SC reference number that must be supplied before submitting any TSI claims. Please note if you already have an NMDS reference number and would like to submit a claim please ensure you have updated your organisations details with the NMDS since the 1st April 2008 otherwise your claim will not be processed. Alternatively you can register or update at www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk. If you would like any help or advise on applying for a NMDS Number please contact Jackie Eager in the DECHA team on 0191 3835582.

In order for us to carry on receiving funding from Skills for Care it is imperative that each DECHA member taking advantage of TSI Funding adheres to the milestones below to ensure that future funding is not jeopardised.

Milestone 2 is at the end of November and 30% achievement is expected by this date.

Milestone 3 is at the end of January and 65% achievement is expected by this date.

Milestone 4 is the final milestone due in by the end of March and 100% achievement is expected by this date.

As you can see the second milestone date is for the end of November and as we have not yet reached our target it is vital that you forward any claims you wish to register to us as soon as possible.

If you have any queries regarding TSI please do not hesitate to contact on us 0191 3836406.

Decha are always looking for good news stories and case studies. If you would like to include an article please contact:

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Train to Gain NVQ Level 3 in Social Care

As part of the government initiated scheme to develop the workforce within Social Care (Train to Gain), we are now taking applications for the above programme.

There will be capacity for 50 candidates, with full LSC funding for candidates meeting the following criteria:

- ◆ **Not qualified to degree level or equivalent**
- ◆ **Can have a second NVO qualification at level 3 or above in other sectors, but not social care.**

Potential candidates who fail to meet the criteria may still apply subject to alternative funding sources being identified.

Induction sessions will be held, dates and locations will be confirmed nearer the time.

Induction will include basic skills literacy and numeracy testing, to enable the assessors to provide the support and assistance needed to enable the learner to successfully complete their NVO.

To apply for a place on the above programme please contact Natalie Wales on **0191 3834641**.

Relevant paperwork, (registration, eligibility criteria, assessment agreements etc) will also be completed at induction and all relevant information regarding the completion of units and the options available will be provided.

'No Secrets' consultation – your chance to shape the future of safeguarding adults work

The Government is in the process of reviewing and refreshing its 'No Secrets' guidance. It is asking everyone with a stake in safeguarding how we can change and develop the guidance in order to better keep people safe.

To steer the process and to focus thinking, the Department of Health has set a series of questions addressing ten related themes. Durham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) intends to submit a multi-agency response to these, and invites you to share your thoughts and views in order that they can be incorporated into our reply.

You can take part in the consultation exercise by contacting the Safeguarding Adults and Practice Development Team by telephone or email and asking for a question pack. This local event ends on January 5th 2009.

Lesley Scriven

Safeguarding Adults Development Officer

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