

Moves mean more opportunities

Over the last year an initiative has been introduced to improve flexible working and to allow staff to move across directorates, from local to forensic services.

This was driven by a desire to make cost improvements which many saw as a negative, but in most cases working in a different service can bring benefits to everyone involved. Dane Brennan, Clinical Nurse Manager on the Peaks Unit at Rampton explains how his experience of the move has been good for both him and his new colleagues.

"I've been at the Peaks Unit since last May. Previously I worked for 15 years in Adult Mental Health and low security community mental health services, but when this was adopted into forensic services I then was able to access the resources of the wider forensic directorate, and subsequently move to Rampton Hospital which provides a high secure environment.

"I've always been of the opinion that knowledge and skills are transferable, and care in bringing new skills and experience to any area strengthens you and the new environment, which can only improve the quality of life for patients.

"There was, and still is, to some extent a lack of movement between services. In the past I've witnessed colleagues be resistant to moving between wards next door to each other. Whilst

Dane Brennan
Clinical Nurse
Manager at the
Peaks Unit



this is understandable because people like familiarity and security. I've always found moving to be beneficial and challenging.

"Nursing is life-long learning, no matter what job you are in and being able to move and see other areas, provides the perfect opportunity to achieve this.

"I have worked for the Trust for nearly 20 years and my recent move to Rampton has opened up a whole new resource for learning opportunities that otherwise wouldn't have been available."

Anyone interested in this type of flexible working should in the first instance speak to their line manager who will be able to explore the available options.



Last NVQ Awards in Care

A ceremony at Duncan MacMillan House marked the last of the NVQ Awards in Care delivered in the Trust. 40 Trust staff qualified and received their certificates from Acting Chief Executive Mike Harris.

Mike said at the presentation, "It's a privilege for me to present the certificates. I'm doing an evening class after work so I know what a struggle it is to juggle work

and family commitments. You've all done fantastically well and I know the Trust benefits by having a more motivated and knowledgeable workforce, which in turn helps the people you care for."

Angela Pemberton, Course Leader, added; "Gaining these qualifications takes commitment. The Trust is classed as an A Grade Centre, which makes it an

equivalent to Oxford and Cambridge. By gaining these awards you know you've all worked hard."

Thanks were paid to David Smedley and Dawn Bown, who carried out internal verification of NVQs and Heather Porter and Julie Spencer for their part in the assessment team. The NVQ is being replaced by other qualifications within the

non-registered care staff framework which are considered an alternative for people working in mental health.

For more information on gaining qualifications contact Angela Pemberton at Duncan MacMillan House on 0115 969 1300 ext 40651 or Julie Spencer at Rampton Hospital on 01777 248321 ext 6172.

Is the press fair?

The treatment of healthcare stories by the press is an issue that concerns many of us in this sector. While some articles no doubt prove useful for practitioners by highlighting a particular issue or case study, there are bound to be some articles which make healthcare professionals see red. The good news for anyone who has ever been frustrated by inaccurate reporting is that redress is possible.

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) is an independent body which is charged with administering a sixteen clause Code of Practice, to which the press has agreed to adhere. The Code covers four main areas of reporting: accuracy, privacy, news-gathering and protecting the vulnerable - all of which may apply

in the reporting of healthcare issues. The task of the Commission is to oversee compliance with the Code of Practice and to investigate complaints from people who believe the Code has been breached in relation to an article that has appeared concerning them.

One example of a recent complaint dealt with by the PCC demonstrates the importance of the work they do. A doctor from a mental health care centre complained about an article that criticised the care provided by the centre. The article claimed that a nursing student at the centre had told a woman to 'go away and pull herself together'. Later that day the woman killed herself. After the PCC investigated the newspaper published an apology to the clinical staff. The paper accepted that the nurse had not said this and that the

suicide was in no way related to the contact with her.

If an article is published that mentions you or someone you care for that you think is wrong, the PCC may well be able to help. Its website www.pcc.org.uk is a good place to start, or you can speak to one of its advisors by calling local-rate Helpline 0845 600 2757. Your call will be treated in strictest confidence and the PCC can advise you on how to proceed. The important thing to remember is that if you see something that you believe is wrong, you can do something about it.

The first point of contact for Trust staff is the Communications Department so that it can progress the complaint if it's appropriate. Call the team on 0115 993 4530.

Down memory lane...

Service users at Bramwell Day Care Centre have taken a trip down memory lane by putting together a collage made up of local books and pictures they brought into their Thursday Group.

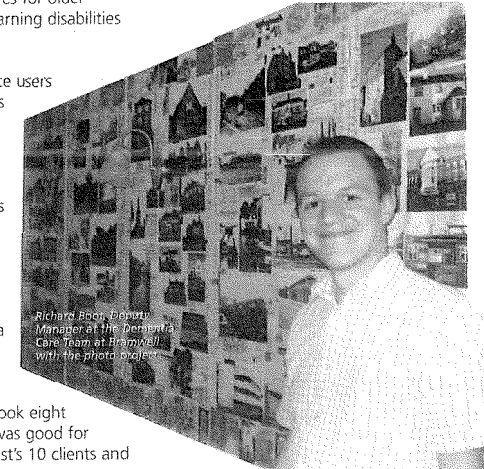
The project was supported by Involve, an organisation which works with Adult Social Care and Health day centres for older people and adults with learning disabilities in Nottinghamshire.

The project involved service users in reminiscence and it was hoped that it would help to stimulate and facilitate conversations within the group of over 65s who have memory problems as well as help new service users feel welcome and decorate the day centre.

Richard Boot, Deputy Manager of the Dementia Care Team at Bramwell, who co-managed the project with Involve artist Claire Simpson said; "It took eight weeks to complete and was good for bringing together the Trust's 10 clients and

the 20 service users from the social services who use the Centre. When doing the project we found many had common-ground. Some of them used to work for the same local companies, drink in the same pubs or attend the same church."

Elsie Norton, a service user involved in the project added; "It was nice to look at the photos and to see places we recognised, places where our children played, it was a lot of work but we all enjoyed it."



Richard Boot, Deputy
Manager of the Dementia
Care Team at Bramwell
with the photo collage