



Health Skills East - a new service for health employers in the East of England .

A Welcome from Robert Powell, Chair of Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust & Chair of Health Skills East Board

"I am delighted to welcome you to Health Skills East - a new service for health employers which is led by health employers from across the East of England.

In response to employer demand, the Region's major publicly funded development agencies have come together to signpost their wide range of services via one portal.

As an employer, I welcome this simplified approach and hope you will too.

This is our first bulletin to alert you to the range of services on offer. Please let us know what you think so that we can give the service employers want"

What is Health Skills East?

We are a partnership of over 30 publicly funded skills development organisations supporting the health sector in the East of England. We signpost & help employers with:-

- Funding of training and business advice
- Recruiting & retaining staff
- Redesigning roles and services to meet new demands
- Careers & Qualifications Information
- Working with Schools & Colleges

Click here to read more www.healthskillseast.org.uk

Who's who in Health Skills East?

Our Steering Group is chaired by a trust chair and members representing both employers and partner organisations from across the Region. This service is here to help you so please give us feedback.

For details of our Board, Management Team and Partners go to www.healthskillseast.org.uk and click the appropriate tab. To give us your feedback use the "Tell us what you think" tab.

News from Health Skills East

- **Funding** . Greater and more flexible funding is now available. Click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “Funding Sources” tab.
- **Skills Pledge** All NHS Trusts in the East of England have signed the Skills Pledge. To learn what this means for you and your staff click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “Recruitment & Retention” tab. A regional event for employers is being organised. Watch next month’s bulletin for details.
- **Sector Qualifications Strategy** Consultation events will be held in each county in November & December 2008. The focus will be on getting the qualifications you want. (Health Skills East will also be there to explain our range of services).

All Events are 9:30 - 12:30pm followed by lunch:-

13th November 2008 - Herts - Goldsmith Centre, Letchworth, SG6 3GB
17th November 2008 - Cambs - Smartlife Centre, Cambs Regional College, CB4 2QT
21st November 2008 - Essex - Writtle College, Chelmsford, CM1 3RR
25th November 2008 - Beds- Shuttleworth College, Biggleswade, SG18 9EA
28th November 2008 - Suffolk - Denny Brothers, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7AR
4th December 2008 - Norfolk - Easton College, Norwich, NR9 5DX

To book a place contact - Christine Stewart Christine@acer.ac.uk

- **Skills for Life** A range of new tools from Skills for Health include **Skills for Life** interactive tools, a new Employability toolkit to help employers recruit to entry level and an evaluation report of the new C&G 9297 Level 2 Award. Click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “Recruitment & Retention” tab.
- **New career pathways** have been launched for Health Scientists, Allied Health Professionals & Public Health. Click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “New Roles & New Teams” tab.
- **Apprenticeships** are set to become a major career route for young people and adults and the sector needs to be able to offer them. An Employers Guide to Implementation tells you how an employer learning network offers development support to those planning a new scheme. Click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “Learning Networks” tab.
- **Information Advice & Guidance** New research findings show that 71% of people in the East of England are thinking about making a total career change *but they don't know how to turn to the most appropriate sources for advice*
Skills for Health, NHS Careers and Learn Direct have collaborated to launch a new national Careers & Qualifications signposting service for the health sector. Click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “Careers & Qualifications Advice” tab.

Our Regional Lifelong Learning Network (MOVE) has launched “Discover” an online qualifications directory for the East of England linked to careers (www.move.ac.uk).

- The East of England **Health Ambassador Service** supported by Aimhigher Healthcare Strand, Skills for Health & NHS East of England is now open to all employers and schools in the East of England and demand is high. Click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “Working with Schools & Colleges” tab.

- **Society Health & Development Diplomas** started in first phase schools in September 2008 and we work to support schools developing the new diploma across the East of England . Our “Click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “Working with Schools & Colleges“ tab
- **Development of the individual.** A range of new initiatives designed to support are described Click www.healthskillseast.org.uk then go to the “Supporting individual Staff“ tab

Coming soon In future editions of this bulletin we will feature:-

- Regular funding updates
- New initiatives for small businesses
- Spotlight on Health Skills East organisations and what they can offer you.
- Help with 18 week waits
- The New Deal & Local Employment Partnerships - how Job Centre Plus can help.
- The new National Adult Careers service and how it can help you and your staff.
- The new National Apprenticeship Service
- Spotlight on the new Regional Economic & Adult Employment & Skills Strategies and what they mean for you
- A new national good practice resource pack coming in 2009
- And more as it comes in

In conclusion from Jennifer Fenelon, Regional Director, Skills for Health

“As we developed the East of England Sector Skills Agreement in 2007, Health Employers from across the region told us how they would like to find help in one place.

Skills for Health has been delighted to sponsor the development of Health Skills East and I know that all our colleague partners are keen to provide easy accessible help to health employers.

Please keep telling us what you want and we will do our best to respond“