

Learning Disability Nursing
Careers Awareness Network

Learning Disability
Nursing C.A.N

Learning Disability Nursing as a career option

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Steve Neville (Founder and Chair of the Learning Disability Nursing Careers Awareness Network) welcomes this opportunity to promote learning disability nursing as a valuable career option for all would be students.

"The network has it's own website and twice yearly newsletter and is currently aimed at anybody interested in a career in learning disability nursing" he said.

Speaking today at the University of Wolverhampton, Steve applauded the university for agreeing to host the website, stating "the University of Wolverhampton School of Health is the largest providers of Learning Disability Nurse Education in the country. It is timely that we are launching this network and there are also plans for it to extend it's appeal to those already qualified as nurses who are interested in developing their knowledge and skills in this area" he said.

Following the Learning disability nursing careers Awareness Day

in July this year, Steve Neville (Senior Lecturer) plans to promote learning disability nursing as a rewarding career which affords opportunities to many people. "People with learning disabilities are being listened to for the first time in many years" he says, "as a learning disability nurse, you really get to work in partnership with individuals and their families and carers to ensure that peoples wishes and needs are heard and responded to".

Steve recently wrote about his aunt Jenny who had learning disabilities, and shared how he had grown up with her and had been influenced by her throughout his career. Steve remembers how she too was supported by nurses who took their lead from her. This resulted in Jenny remaining (supported) in her own home (which she had lived all her life) after her parents died, rather than facing the very real possibility of being placed into a hostel for people with learning disabilities.

The value of Learning Disability Nurses in mainstream health settings

Andrew Jervis (Student Nurse)

It became abundantly clear whilst I was on a seven week Adult placement, the very clear 'split' between the role of the 'general nurse' and that of the 'learning disability nurse'.

I was very grateful that I was called upon by staff members to assist with the obvious com-

munication issues, especially in relation to pre and post operative pain relief. I couldn't help wonder what would have been the outcome for people with learning disabilities had a learning disability nurse not been on duty during this time. Mencap (2004) recommends that health staff should get learning disabil-

ity training involving people with learning disabilities themselves. Learning Disability Nurses should 'continue to empower the clients in their care, so that they may lives their lives with dignity and respect' (Department of Health 1998)

Two job offers prior to qualifying!

Student Nurse Velma Brown is celebrating her success following an offer of not one, but two jobs, 2 months prior to qualifying as a registered nurse.

Velma who has been on placement at St. Andrews Hospital in Northamptonshire was offered the staff nurse posts on a forensic unit and also on a unit meeting the needs of people who have 'acquired brain injuries'.

"I can't quite believe it myself, it's fantastic news', there are definitely jobs and career opportunities out there for Learning Disability Nurses" She said.

"I can't quite believe it myself, it's fantastic news"

Velma recently experienced an overseas placement in Norway where she was able to develop and enhance her clinical skills. Speaking at the Learning Disability Nursing Careers Awareness Day in July, "I have really enjoyed my training, and have always wanted to work with people with learning

disabilities. That is why I am here," she says.



Do you want to find out more about learning disability nursing?

The Learning Disability Nursing Careers Network can deliver free workshops to schools, colleges, & other organisations.

Contact Steve Neville (Chairperson) for further details: 01902 518840, steveneville@wlv.ac.uk

Learning Disability Nursing Student attend Hope House Children's Hospices for placement

A learning disability nursing student has recently completed a clinical placement at Hope House Children's Hospices in Oswestry. Peter Croghan (2nd Year Student) was the first learning disability nursing student to be placed at the hospice following their commitment to offer this opportunity to our students.

There are currently 3 learning disability nurses employed by the hospice who currently mentor the students during their 12

week placement.

"I have further develop my skills in this area" Peter said, "particularly working within a multi professional team. It was a fantastic opportunity". Thanks to Hope

House for their ongoing support.

Hope House Children's Hospices
Nant Lane
Morda
Nr Oswestry
Shropshire
0671999



Learning Disability Health Access/Acute Liaison Nurse Presents at Awareness Day

Karen Breese (Learning Disability Health Access Nurse) and Heather Brierley (Acute Liaison Nurse) from Shropshire and Staffordshire Foundation NHS Trust, presented at the Learning Disability Nursing Careers Awareness Day in July. Karen and Heather shared the value of working across acute and primary care or hospital services in order to promote and enable equal access to mainstream healthcare services for people with learning disabilities. "Our role is very demanding,

some days we are on the wards and other days we are meeting people with learning disabilities prior to being admitted into hospital. We work with the hospital staff to ensure that individual's communication needs are understood and that professionals are aware of issues around consent". The Health Access team have recently agreed to offer student nurses a clinical placement in order to develop knowledge and experience in this area. Karen is also a member of the National 'Access to Acute' net-

work which is a network of learning disability nurses who meet regularly to discuss and share good practice initiatives in this area.

"The Health Access team have recently agreed to offer student nurses a clinical placement in order to develop knowledge and experience in this area."

Try our website for more information:

www.wlv.ac.uk/learningdisabilityCAN

Follow the Progress of Laura Freeman (student nurse) from the beginning of Learning Disability nurse training from September 2007

As my first day drew closer I became more and more excited, on my first day I was slightly nervous, having never driven the M6 before I was not sure what to expect from either the journey or my first day. Not knowing anyone was scary but I made friends straight away, everyone was really easy to talk to and soon I forgot how worried I had been and realised everyone was in the same situation. All the lecturers are friendly and approachable, making communication easy.

Over the last couple of weeks I have met many new people and I have found my feet around the university, we have had brief insights into several modules and have had talks on what's available to help us. I was surprised at how tiring the days have been but am really looking forward to getting stuck into the course and in particular my first placement which starts on New Years Eve!



The End of the journey - Group Finish after 3 years Training

Well done to all students from group October 2004 who have all completed the course. Pictured are Steve Neville & Lynne Westwood (Senior Lecturers) congratulating all students during their last day in University.

Interested in a Career in Learning Disability Nursing?

Do you have 5 GCSE's, NVQ level 3 or the equivalent?

Do you want to work with people with learning disabilities to promote healthy lifestyles?

Did you know ***you are paid*** a non means tested monthly bursary and there are ***no course fees***?

Do you want to know more about learning disability nursing?

To find out more, come to the

Learning Disability Nursing Careers Awareness Conference

on:

Friday 9th November 2007

10am-5pm

University of Wolverhampton, Telford Campus

OR

Friday 30th November 2007

10am-5pm

University of Wolverhampton, Walsall Campus

Attendance is free and lunch will be provided

To register or for further information, contact:

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