

# LEARNING DISABILITY NURSING CAREERS AWARENESS NETWORK

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## Learning Disability Nursing - Opportunities

**It is clear from the Department of Health guidance 'good practice in learning disability nursing' (2007) that Learning Disability nurses have a clearly defined role to play in meeting the healthcare needs of people with learning disabilities now and in the future.**

Learning Disability nurses are beginning to work in a variety of settings, both within the health, education and social services as well as in the private and voluntary sector, where their skills are highly transferrable.

Speaking today about the 2nd Issue of the Learning Disability Nursing Careers Awareness newsletter, Steve Neville (Chair)

says, "It has been a busy few months, with the recruitment of Learning disability students for October 2007 being at an all time high at the University of Wolverhampton.

There are further opportunities for those who are interested in a career in learning disability nursing, with the Diploma commencing again this October (2008).

We have been working to increase opportunities for students deciding to commence training with us at the school of health, and have identified new and exciting placement areas locally, as well as continuing to forge our international links, to enable students to access placements

overseas".

Steve recently received an award at the University of Wolverhampton for the support and encouragement he offers to students in presenting their work at national conferences and workshops, "It is all about students taking whatever opportunities they can" he commented. Pictured below, is Steve receiving his award from Sally Glen Pro-Vice Chancellor at the University of Wolverhampton.



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## Students to attend Positive Choices Conference in Liverpool

Students from all Learning Disability Cohorts at the University of Wolverhampton are to attend the 2008 positive choices conference at Edge Hill University in Liverpool.

The free event will be held on the 4th April and students will be staying over at Pontins holiday camp for the night, where they can meet up with fellow students from Eire, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The event is high profile for students and speakers Professor Bob Gates. Students are also given the opportunity to take part in poster presentations at the event. Pictured below, are students nurses Amy Mus-

grave and Bernadette Charewha who have just completed their abstracts to complete for the poster presentation. An additional three students are also working on abstracts for submission. "This is a great opportunity for students to present their work on a national scale" Steve Neville stated. Amy Musgrave is feeling "quite excited about attending the conference and also the student party at Pontins".



## **Wolverhampton welcomes new Senior Lecturer**

The University of Wolverhampton School of Health, welcomes Michael Welsh to the Learning Disability Team. Michael has worked as a qualified nurse and Social Worker in the North West for many years in various NHS, Social Services and Independent service providers. Mick is particularly interested in the Quality of services, Person Centred Practice and also the future of learning disability nursing.



## **Job success for 3rd year student**

3rd year student learning disability nurse, Joanne Tonkinson has been successful in securing her first post as Staff nurse, months before actually qualifying!

Joanne will commence her role as Assistant Home manager within a Specialist Inpatient Assessment and Treatment Service for people with learning disabilities, Adults and young children.

Joanne is particularly excited about the role, and reports that the main functions of her job include providing treatment packages from admission to discharge, supporting clients to be engaged in all aspects of their care, assisting in the management of the unit and ensuring the continual profes-

sional development of herself and the staff team.

## **New placement areas in Shropshire**

Students will have the opportunity to experience 2 new clinical areas in Shropshire, during their training, it was announced yesterday. Peter Eggison, Subject Leader for Learning Disability Nursing announced that students have recently been placed within the Community Nurse Health Access Team, which aims to improve the quality of access for people with Learning Disabilities in primary and secondary care settings. In addition to this, students will have the opportunity to work on an acute Psychiatric ward for People with Learning Disabilities and mental health needs.

## **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](mailto:steveneville@wlv.ac.uk)

## **Learning Disability Nursing Student presents poster at Palliative Care conference**

Third year student nurse, Peter Croghan, presented a talking poster at a recent Palliative Care conference, alongside Steve Neville (Senior Lecturer). Peter was requested to present his poster having previously presenting it at two national conferences, one at Queen's University in Belfast and the other at the University of Bath in 2007.

with Hope House Children's Hospice in Oswestry, Shropshire, to promote the services that they offer, but also to promote the positive value skill and expertise that learning disability nurses can bring to the Children's Hospice environment.



Both Steve and Peter have been working closely

# Healthcare Commission to present at University of Wolverhampton

Fiona Ritchie, the Healthcare Commissions lead for Learning Disabilities, will present the findings of a National Audit of Learning Disability Health Services, to groups of students at the University of Wolverhampton on February 28th.

Students have been invited to take part from Keele, Birmingham City, Nottingham, Northampton, Coventry & Worcester and Leicester De Montford Universities. "This will be a great opportunity for students to hear first hand, the results, conclusions and recommendations of the report

'A life like no other'" Steve Neville said, talking about the event.

## Universities Collaboration

"Students will also be asked to develop a discussion document focussing upon how, as students, they can make a difference whilst on placement" he furthered.

Steve has also invited representative lecturers from the named Universities to develop a

'Midlands regional 'Universities Collaboration in Learning Disability Nursing' group with the aim of delivering events to students throughout the year, in order for them to have regular face to face regional dialogue and opportunities to experience networking. Steve is also visiting Texas University and 'Austin Texas Mental Health Mental Retardation Center' in March 2008 to explore the possibility of collaborative links with both organisations and also a potential student exchange programme.

## Did you know?

- You can top up your Diploma to a degree at the University of Wolverhampton School of Health?
- As Learning Disability Nurses you can complete your specialist Health Visitor training with us at the University of Wolverhampton School of Health
- At the University of Wolverhampton, we offer you the opportunity to complete a 'work based'
- Masters degree
- You can complete 'stand alone' modules relating to working with people with learning disabilities at level 2 or 3, including; Epilepsy, Delivering Quality Services to People with Learning Disabilities, Care and Management of people with learning disabilities and mental health problems, person
- You can study a Certificate in Complimentary Therapies at the University of Wolverhampton School of Health

Take up the opportunity at The University of Wolverhampton School of Health  
Contact Steve Neville or Peter Eggison for details 01902 518800

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

February 2008 Update!

The first couple of months spent at university have been a mixed experience. I have been enjoying getting stuck into the lectures and working in the skills labs. I have found the lecturers to be helpful and approachable which has had a positive impact on my learning.

It has been nice going to the Student union bar with a few classmates after our late lectures, socialising and running over areas that we wanted to elaborate on further. When we all met for a Christmas get together I found it a great change to talk to people I hadn't yet had a chance to do so.

I am currently towards the end of my first placement which is in a learning disability school. It is by far the best experience of the course so far! All the children have strong wonderful personalities and they are amazing to work with. There is a large variety of disabilities within my class and I have enjoyed my time with them. I have learnt so much of all the children from signing to how they communicate most effectively and what they do and don't like. I have had amazing opportunities such as going into a hydro session in the hydro pool, going into a physiotherapy session and using technology I have never seen before. I will most certainly miss every one within the class when I leave.

I am looking forward to seeing all my classmates when returning to university in a few weeks and also a Positive Choices conference that is coming up in April.

# Interested in training for a Career in Learning Disability Nursing?

Do you want to work with people with learning disabilities to promote healthy lifestyles? Do you have 5 GCSE's, NVQ level 3 or the equivalent? Did you know at the School of Health, there are **no course fees** and **you are paid** a non means tested monthly bursary?

Do you want to know more?

Then come to the

**Learning Disability Nursing Careers Awareness Workshop**  
on:

**Thursday 17th April 2008**

6-8:30pm

University of Wolverhampton, School of Health, Walsall Campus

OR

**Thursday 24th April 2008**

6-8:30pm

University of Wolverhampton, School of Health, City Campus

Free to attend, refreshments provided

To register or for further information, contact:

Steve Neville : [steveneville@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:steveneville@wlv.ac.uk) or

Peter Eggison : [p.d.eggison@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:p.d.eggison@wlv.ac.uk)

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