

Allied Health professions online>>



VOLUME 1

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Get Connected be Informed

Welcome to Online, the first Newsletter for the Allied Health Professions in the Health and Personal Social Services Northern Ireland (HPSS).



Effective and timely communication presents a constant challenge for us all. It is essential to our daily work activity and outcomes irrespective of our work locations. Through effective communication so much can be achieved, without it so much is lost.

The establishment of the Allied Health Professions (AHP) Extranet website proved to be such an effective communication tool across the AHP and HPSS family that we are now launching it on the internet. Going world-wide will facilitate greater understanding, respect and collaboration between health and social care practitioners throughout Northern Ireland and beyond. AHPs need to harness the potential which modern technology offers to create a more equitable environment in which they can make an equitable contribution to the future development and delivery of health and social services.

The AHP site offers the opportunity for AHPs to contribute more fully than ever before in leading and developing the changes currently taking place within health and social care in Northern Ireland. In short AHPs need to get connected or get left behind. I firmly believe that through the development of this resource AHPs can play an even greater role in delivering services to those who are in need.

**Mrs Nuala McArdle, Officer for the Allied Health Professions,
Department of Health, Social Services
& Public Safety, Northern Ireland**



Orthoptics



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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Accessing the Website

The AHP Website aims to progress the objectives of AHPs working across the HPSS in Northern Ireland. The aim of the site is to address matters related to the organisation and delivery of AHP services and includes items of direct interest to AHP staff. The site can be accessed on the worldwide web at <http://www.alliedhealthprofessionsni.gov.uk> and <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ahp> and on the internal HPSS network at <http://www.extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ahp> and provides a unique opportunity for clinicians across Northern Ireland to contribute ideas, information, suggestions and advice on the development of AHP issues.

The site is not only a communication network but provides a focus for the development of a corporate identity for AHPs. It is an invaluable resource for health service professionals which includes a range of published information including strategy documents, consultations, links to other professional bodies and useful AHP sites as well as facilitating easy access to a number of medical research databases.

The following menu items are available at the site:

AHP Menu
About AHP
Publications
Contacts/Feedback
Links
Information
Reserch & Dev
CPD
HPSS Careers
AHP Strategy
e-consultation

Feedback about the site and any DHSSPS consultation documents can be done online through the e consultation/ feedback at the site.

In addition to providing a useful reference point the Contacts Directory of AHPs contains details on: - Trust AHP general managers, professional heads of service, staff-side representatives, clinical tutors, the chairs and secretaries of regional managers groups and other AHP fora, AHP commissioners, AHP representatives on LHSCGs and the representatives of AHP professional bodies in Northern Ireland. Information relating to the Research & Development Office for the HPSS is also presented, including specific information for AHPs interested in accessing research opportunities.

This list of contacts is continually updated and will be added to as the site develops and more AHPs become registered. Those who have not already done so can register their contact details online at <http://extranet/alliedhealthprofessions/contacts.html>



Physiotherapy

Continuous Professional Development

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Podiatry

This section of the site gives up-to-date information on the range of AHP programmes and training opportunities that are organised through the Centre for Continuing Professional Development for the AHPs located at the Beeches Management Centre, Belfast.

A new Management Development Programme for the AHP Heads of Service has completed its first programme at the end of May 2004. The programme aims to help AHPs develop strategic planning and thinking, improve planning and service delivery and capitalise on information management. Ultimately this will allow AHPs to influence and contribute strategically to the HPSS systems and processes that support a patient-centred service.

The programme has been developed in response to training issues, which have arisen out of the Comprehensive Workforce Planning Reviews, and offers a challenging development programme for senior managers. The Department has commissioned the Beeches Management Centre, in association with the Centre for Continuing Professional Development for the AHPs, to provide this programme.

It is proposed to use this programme in its second term to address issues of succession planning. Participants will be given the opportunity to influence the content and shape of the programme. The next programme, tailored to the needs of the applicants, is planned for 2005.

Details of all courses/programmes offered through the Centre for Continuing Professional Development for AHPs are available in the CPD section of the website. Nomination forms can either be downloaded or completed on-line and returned to the Centre to apply for a place on any programme offered.



Radiography



Creative Arts Therapy

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4 Northern Ireland Health Professions Forum (NIHPF)

The Northern Ireland Health Professions Forum (NIHPF) held its AGM in June 2004 and elected Rita Fox, Physiotherapy Manager / Clinical Professions Director at the Royal Victoria Hospital and Patricia Blackburn, AHP Commissioner for the SHSSB as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. The NIHPF was formed in May 2002 and is a representative body of members nominated from eleven of the twelve health professions now regulated by the Health Professions Council. The eleven professions represented on the forum include: Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Arts Therapists, Clinical Scientists, Biomedical Scientists, Orthoptists, Podiatrists, Dieticians, Radiographers, Prosthetists and Orthotists.

The principal aim of the NIHPF is to ensure that the skills and expertise of the AHPs are fully recognised and appropriately used at a strategic level within the HPSS. The NIHPF is determined to ensure that AHPs are positioned to contribute effectively to the planning, management and delivery of health and social care services in Northern Ireland. Over the past year the forum has met with a range of political parties and health policy groups to inform them of the issues facing AHPs and has held a one-day strategy workshop in the autumn to progress this work and raise the profile of the forum. Anyone wishing to contact the forum can do so at

rita.fox@royalhospitals.n-i.nhs.uk



Dietetics

Research Opportunities for AHPs

The Research & Development Office for the HPSS (R&D Office) aims to promote, co-ordinate and support research and development within the field of health and social care. One of the main functions of the Programme Manager for the Allied Health Professions (Dr Fiona Cramp) is to assist the AHPs to maximise R&D Office schemes by promoting opportunities and being an effective link to the Office.

The AHP website provides information about the R&D Office including a timetable for relevant schemes and other information that may be useful to those who would like to find out more about research or get involved.

It is encouraging to note that two of the four R&D Office MPhil Fellowship awards made this year went to AHPs. Congratulations to Claire McArdle and Karen Logan who are both dietitians at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

[continued>](#)

The title of Karen's project is 'Mediterranean-style diet in patients with coronary heart disease - uptake and effectiveness in the Northern Ireland population' and Claire's project is 'Assessment of energy requirements in non-sedated, non-ventilated patients with a severe brain injury'. These awards provide tuition fees and salary replacement to allow HPSS professionals to carry out their research on a secondment basis. They also include money towards research expenses, and a conference allowance.

To find out about the MPhil Fellowship and any other R&D Office awards please contact Dr Fiona Cramp, Research & Development Office, 12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BS. Tel: 028 9055 3617 or email: crampf@rdo.n-i.nhs.uk



Prosthetics & Orthotics

Patient-Centred Community Information System (PCIS)

Background

The Person-Centred Community Information System (PCIS) project aims to establish a single integrated community health and social care record for all patients and clients in receipt of community based services. Successful implementation of PCIS involves a process of organisational change, which spans a broad range of professional issues e.g. sharing of information.

When is PCIS coming?

The PCIS preferred supplier will be identified through an evaluation process. The preferred supplier will be the one shown to be best capable of delivering the PCIS products and services within an acceptable timeframe and at an acceptable cost. The supplier will be known by the end of this year and implementation will follow soon after.

Who will go first?

This has yet to be decided. As this is a regional project it will depend on Trust's preparedness for implementation, for example have departments enough PCs.

Will I receive training?

Yes, there is a training strategy that will ensure you will have the necessary skills required to use the PCs and the system.

Where can I get more information?

If you are working in the community you should contact your local project manager / trust professional or you can contact:

Angela Belshaw

PCIS Central Professional

Belvoir Park Hospital.

Telephone: 90 699 003

E-mail: angela.belshaw@dis.n-i.nhs.uk

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AHP Strategy

The Advisory Committee for Allied Health Professionals (ACAHP) has approved a proposal to develop a new regional strategy for AHPs. A steering group has been established to oversee this process, chaired by Nuala McArdle. This steering group will oversee a small working group, which will be taking the formulation of the strategy forward. It is considered that this is a particularly crucial time for the development of this strategy. The strategy will indicate the position of AHPs in a patient-centred service and link into Departmental documents and strategies.

A consultation process will be established to capture views and issues from service users, professions, education and commissioners and staff-side representatives throughout the HPSS. This process will be in the format of a framework of 5 regional workshops based on the theme of modernisation for the Allied Health Professions. The contribution of the AHPs at these workshops will feed into the overall strategy. Each workshop will address separate AHP issues. The first workshop is planned for Friday 19 November 2004, venue The Dunadry Hotel, Belfast and a second workshop for 13 December 2004 at the Fitzwilliam Hotel, Belfast International Airport with one each month until March 2005. Information and application forms can be downloaded from the AHP website.

HPSS Careers Initiative

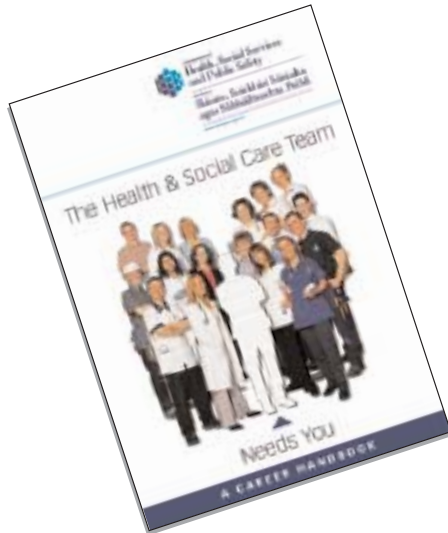
The Department launched the above initiative at Jobscene Belfast in the Odyssey Arena on 23rd and 24th September 2004. A package is available to Trusts which has been designed based on the theme of the team, to provide comprehensive information on more than 30 different career opportunities in the Northern Ireland HPSS today. The photographs are of actual HPSS staff depicting their own jobs.

The package includes a conference backdrop (approx 4m width and 2m height) featuring the HPSS team, to be used at careers exhibitions etc. There are 5 such backdrops located within the 4 Board areas, which can be borrowed by Trusts.

Also available is a Career Handbook, which is a reference for these careers. In addition to this there are also 35 individual career leaflets. There is also a CD Rom, which contains all of the information in the Career Handbook. It is hoped that this material could be used at careers exhibitions and displayed in Trusts e.g. in entrance halls or GP surgeries etc.



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The literature can be ordered from the Department by contacting:

HPSS Careers

The Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Human Resources Directorate
Workforce Development Unit
Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
BELFAST BT4 3SQ
Tel: (028) 9052 2664
Email: wdu@dhsspsni.gov.uk

All this information can be downloaded at
<http://www.extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ahp>
and <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ahp>

Consultation on Primary Care

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The DHSSPSNI has launched a consultation on the future of primary care. Entitled 'Caring For People Beyond Tomorrow', the consultation document sets out a strategic framework for the development of primary care services over the next two decades. The consultation deadline was 8 October 2004. This document is available on the Department's website at: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/2004/caring/carepeople04.asp

Service Improvement Conference

The DHSSPSNI will hold a Service Improvement Conference at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast on 11th November 2004. The conference is open to everyone from across the HPSS and will allow participants the opportunity to find out how other people in the HPSS are improving their services. For further information contact:

The Service Improvement Unit on 028 9052 2755 or serviceimprovement@dhsspsni.gov.uk



Occupational Therapy

AHP Internet Steering Group Members

Angela Belshaw	angela.belshaw@dis.n-i.nhs.uk
David Wright	DWright@alt.n-i.nhs.uk
Declan Green	declan.green@nwb.n-i.nhs.uk
Dorothy Jeffrey (Chair)	dorothy.jeffrey@dhsspsni.gov.uk
Fiona Cramp	crampf@rdo.n-i.nhs.uk
Fiona Hodkinson	fhodkinson@beeches.bmc.n-i.nhs.uk
Janet O'Hagan	johbfast@yahoo.com
Jennifer McClintock	jmclintock@alt.n-i.nhs.uk
Judith Liddell	Judith.Liddell@sebt.n-i.nhs.uk
Martin McLoughlin	martin.mcloughlin@dhh.n-i.nhs.uk
Tom Sullivan	Sullivant@csphysio.org.uk



Speech and Language Therapy

Contacting Us

Dorothy Jeffrey
 Information & Workforce Planning Liaison Officer for
 Allied Health Professions
 E-mail: dorothy.jeffrey@dhsspsni.gov.uk
 Tel No: 028 905 20590

Annette Irvine, Secretary
 E-mail: annette.irvine@dhsspsni.gov.uk
 Tel No: 028 905 22966

Contact Address
 DHSSPSNI
 Medical & Allied Branch
 Room 5
 Annexe 6
 Castle Buildings
 BELFAST BT4 3SQ



Feedback

We very much welcome feedback from all AHP staff on any of the topics and website issues. The site can be accessed and comments submitted online via the internal HPSS network at <http://www.extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ahp> and via the internet at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ahp>



Department of
**Health, Social Services
 and Public Safety**

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 agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**