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WMCA newsletter 5, 19th November 20

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Hello there

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear All,

Central England Award Winners

We would like to congratulate **Alternative Care** who won the Central England Domiciliary Provider, **Carole Onley** from Housman Court who won the Care Manager of the Year and **Janusz Kosecki** from St Johns Care who won the Car of the year. The Central England area covers Staffordshire Shropshire Derbyshire Nottinghamshire East Midlands Warwickshire as well as Worcestershire, Herefordshire and the West Midlands.

Distance learning Dementia Training

There is funding available for the accredited Dementia Distance Learning module. For Providers in Birmingham the Employers contribution would be £50. Provider who are further a field will be asked to pay more if they can be accommodated.

For details contact:

Moira Mees – South Birmingham College on 0121 694 5092 or email moira.mees@sbc.ac.uk

Walsall Tendering

The Association met with the tendering team on the 12th of November to share members' concerns and offer support to the tendering process.

The tendering team are considering conducting service user consultation and the possibility of conducting a couple of sessions in care homes is being looked at. We'll keep you updated on this process.

The tendering advert has been delayed to 19th Dec 08 and will only address older people's services in this round. The Tendering Team intend to share a four year profile of services demand which will greatly assist business planning and the Association will be included in the discussions during the drafting of content for questions.

Providers will be asked for key documents in their submissions and the Association will keep the membership posted on the detail as it becomes available. One of the main documents will be the Company brochure and where a provider does not have one of these this is a good time to begin drafting a

profile of services. Possibly even contacting the Chamber of Commerce to see what assistance can be offered in its preparation. The Tendering Team has assured the Association that there is a commitment within the process to 'no surprises' and to that end the Team intend to share a profile of the framework contract and evaluation criteria to allow providers to be fully prepared.

The Association is preparing to support information/training sessions to underpin the member's preparation for tendering and we'll contact you as soon as we have access to the draft questions to arrange the first of these sessions.

The Association understands that providers should express interest in specialist services with the intention of developing these services where commissioning feel there is potential. The Commissioners will provide an expectation of costs for these services.

We anticipate being in a position to arrange a meeting after the 21st November once we've had sight of the Contract Questions Draft.

Walsall Endeavour CIC are advertising an Effective Tender Writing Course which will be a day programme running on 25th November and repeated on 28th November. The charge is £95 per delegate. Further information is available from Emma or Katie on 01922 726114

Training Courses special offers

We are running some short courses in Birmingham and we can offer you 'buy one get one free' option for any of your employees if they wish to attend. The dates, times and course information is all below but we would need to know by either Tuesday or Wednesday 18th or 19th November.

To take up this offer call Amy Pearce 0870 8501411 and quote the promotional "short courses"

28th November

9.30am-12.30pm
Essentials of Health and Safety
2002
Kelly Wormall
£45 ex VAT

28th November

13.30pm-16.30pm
Statutory Fire
2003
Kelly Wormall
£45 ex VAT

5th December

9.30am-12.30pm
Emergency First Aid
2004
Steve Beevers
£45 ex VAT

5th December

13.30pm-16.30pm
Manual Handling
2005
Steve Beevers
£45 ex VAT

Specialist Skills Brokerage Service

Following the extremely successful pilot scheme across the Black Country, BCF are pleased to announce that we are now able to offer this service to all our members.

BCPC Specialist Skills Brokers provide a free, independent and impartial assessment to identify the areas of your business where additional training could help you to grow and expand or make the maximum use of the staff and facilities that you have. They can then help you arrange training and provide information about possible sources of funding.

The specialist skills brokerage service at BCPC will offer employers:

- access to brokers who have specific social care knowledge and expertise
- a comprehensive analysis and range of solutions to your training needs
- easy access to relevant, high quality training
- information and support to access a wide range of different training, including funded and non-funded training
- information and advice on qualifications and training
- follow-up and support to develop ongoing strategies to address future training needs.

To book a visit please contact Wendy Miller or Wendy Rigby on:

01902 551083 or bcpc@wolverhampton.gov.uk

If your business is to be successful, it needs to compete, and to compete you need to train your employees. We can help your business get the training it needs to succeed by putting you in touch with:

- free advice on business needs
- help to match training needs with training providers
- help to make sure that training is delivered to meet your business needs.

The Train to Gain local and regional network of Specialist Skills Brokers is trained by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Skills for Care. These specialist advisers have a proven track record of providing effective services to business. Access to a wider network of business support services can also be provided.

NATIONAL NEWS

UK BORDER AGENCY: POINTS BASED SYSTEM - DATES FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

On 27 November 2008, tiers 2 and 5 of the points-based system will open for applications. As these tiers open we will close down the schemes which they replace.Click link below for full story

<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/news.asp?NewsID=267>

D H NEWS: NHS STAFF DEVELOP MEASURES OF QUALITY CARE

Doctors, nurses and other NHS staff in England are helping to develop new standards to measure and improve the quality of care in the NHS..Click link below for full story

<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/news.asp?NewsID=266>

CSCI REPORT ON ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA IS ACCUSED OF MIXED MESSAGES

A report by the regulator of nursing and residential care homes on the outcome of its recent review of eligibility criteria for social care has been dubbed 'a mish-

mash of mixed messages'.Click link below for full story
<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/news.asp?NewsID=264>

UK BORDERS AGENCY: 200,000 FEWER JOBS AVAILABLE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS UNDER NEW RULES

The number of jobs available to foreign workers through the shortage occupational route will be reduced, the Government has announced.Click link below for full story

<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/news.asp?NewsID=263>

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK: PENSIONERS PAY £3,000 A YEAR TOWARDS CARE HOMES AS COUNCIL FUNDING FALLS SHORT

Elderly people and their families are being forced to pay thousands of pounds a year towards care home fees because council funding is falling short, according to a reportClick link below for full story

<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/news.asp?NewsID=262>

D H NEWS: NHS CHOICES CONTRACT AWARDED TO CAPITA GROUP PLC

On 11th November 2008, the Department of Health signed a contract with Capita Group PLC to drive forward the NHS Choices service for the next three years.Click link below for full story

<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/news.asp?NewsID=259>

CSCI GUIDANCE; HOW WE WRITE INSPECTION REPORTS

Read the guidance on how our inspectors should write their reports about care services following an inspection visit.Click link below for full story

<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/news.asp?NewsID=255>

CSCI GUIDANCE: HOW WE REVIEW THE QUALITY OF OUR INSPECTION REPORTS

Read the guidance for our inspectors and managers about how to check the quality of our inspection reports.Click link below for full story

<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/news.asp?NewsID=254>

WMCA WEBSITE

The WMCA website can now be visited at www.westmidlandscare.org.uk The website contains all the latest news items both locally and nationally as well as lots of additional member benefits, mainly in the form of substantially discounted products and services from some of the sectors biggest suppliers. New and improved offers will be constantly added so don't forget to keep checking. Don't miss out on this excellent marketing opportunity, a photograph and write up of your home on the website is free to WMCA Members and can only help generate more enquiries. Please email or post us your info now and gain even more benefit from your WMCA Membership.

RECOMMENDED SERVICES AND MEMBER BENEFITS

AID CALL

With over 25 years experience **Aid Call** are leaders in the design, manufacture and installation of radio based alarms and nurse call systems. We have provided the healthcare industry with a full range of solutions for customers including NHS Trusts, private hospitals, care groups, sheltered accommodation and care homes.

http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/aid_call.asp

THE ENERGY ADVISORS

As a long established company completely independent of all suppliers and shippers, we are able to

give unbiased advice, analyse your specific requirements and explore the entire energy market to negotiate the very best deal for you.

http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/reduced_energy_costs.asp

SITUATIONS VACANT

Got job vacancies that need filling?? Visitors to the WMCA website check out the Situations Vacant Page. Just email details of the positions you have available and we'll list them for you. Free of charge to LCA Members

<http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/jobs/index.asp>

10 TIMES YOUR FEES BACK!!

We believe that the range of benefits now in place offer in excess of a 10 fold return on the cost of WMCA membership, there really has never been a better time to join. To download your membership application now, use the link below.

http://www.westmidlandscare.org.uk/pdfs/WMCA_Application_form_2008.pdf

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