

2011 Advancing Healthcare Awards



UK Awards for Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists

Impact report

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Advancing Health Awards 2011

Impact report: an interim review

Introduction

The media views healthcare in simplistic terms. It thinks it understands what doctors do and what nurses do and thinks that there are too many managers. And it thinks that the government is nearly always wrong. Beyond that there's a fog. The challenges for those in the allied health professions and in healthcare science is to find a way of describing how they contribute to improved patient care so that their role can be understood, appreciated and developed.

The Advancing Healthcare Awards for AHPs and healthcare scientists were launched five years ago to fill that gap, to raise the profile of healthcare professionals who are so often overlooked, to help spread good practice among the professions and to interest the wider media.

This year we prepared detailed press releases for each of the shortlisted entrants which were available as a press pack on the day, sent to the entrants, to communications contacts in each organisation, and made available on the awards website. We do not have the resources to do extensive PR work in-house so we rely on the shortlisted teams to promote their own success using their Trust communications people.

The contributions here offer a snapshot of how awards can help get the message across. The awards presentation lunch was in April so it is early days yet and we expect many more stories from the shortlisted entrants about how their recognition has given them:

- Profile
- Confidence
- Connections
- Funding
- Renewed vision

We will be using an updated version of this Impact Report as part of the promotion for the 2012 awards.

Alison Dunn

Joint managing director

Chamberlain Dunn/Caboo Design

Rethinking the patient care pathway

Sponsored by Department of Health,
Social Services and Public Safety Northern Ireland



Hope Specialist Service

Pam Hancock, COPD lead and Kylie Farbrace, falls lead, North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus

As the overall winners with a highly appealing project, the team have had good coverage. The CSP ran a feature on their website and in Frontline. They say it took a while to get something in the local media, despite a press release going out to papers/radio, but they got there in the end with the local paper by tying it in with another story.

NHS Employers have included it under the Planning Your Workforce section of their Sharing Learning feature on their website. They had a visit in June from David Behan, the Department of Health Director of General Social Care.

Pauline Mulholland, the AHP lead in Northern Ireland, plans to invite the team to speak at an event to launch her strategy.

Feedback awaited from:

Integrated neurological services

Janet Priest, team leader neurology long term conditions and Mandy Wardle, deputy team leader, NHS Bolton

and

Using an enhanced recovery pathway to drive change in orthopaedics

Jonathan Swan, orthopaedic therapy team leader and Harriet Sturgess, senior occupational therapist, Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Trust

Achieving excellence in learning and development

Sponsored by GateHouse Training



Nutritional care of people affected by cancer: an education programme

Debbie Provan, Macmillan Project lead dietitian and Sharon Little, Macmillan dietitian, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Debbie writes: We've had coverage in our local healthboard newsletter; my professional body's monthly magazine (2 months running); praise from our colleagues, line managers, health director, chief executive and Macmillan Cancer Support (our funders). I was asked to speak at a local AHP leadership event and also our professional body's annual conference. And we had a mention at the Scottish Parliament.'

Waiyin Hatton, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran said: 'Huge congratulations on winning the Achieving Excellence in Learning & Development award! This is not only outstanding recognition of how you are 'making a difference', but also bringing NHSAA to the UK platform. Your efforts are very much appreciated.'

Mandy Yule, healthcare director, Integrated Care and Partner Services, NHS Ayrshire and Arran said: Congratulations to you all on your award. Another example of excellence from our dietetic service! We were all so proud to hear about this on Friday.'

Feedback awaited from:

Getting the Point: The importance of calculations in healthcare

Paul Lee, medical devices training manager and Ruth Gates, project lead, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board

and

Musculoskeletal physiotherapy evidence based best practice guideline development

Clair Holdsworth, out patient physiotherapy service lead, Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust

Leading integration

Sponsored by The AHP Federation



Development of integrated orthoptic and refraction clinics

Joy Peters, orthoptic service manager and Alison Friel, deputy orthoptic service manager, Northern Health and Social Care Trust and Dr Joanne Logan, deputy head of optometry, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

NHS Employers shared learning section has written a case study of the integrated orthoptic and refraction clinic service.

Faster Feet. The setting up and running of a joint multi disciplinary diabetic foot clinic Rosalyn Thomas, deputy head of podiatry (Swansea), Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board

Ros has had excellent local coverage. A reporter and photographer from the Swansea Evening Post came to her unit to photograph the team, interview Ros and also talk to a patient about the service. This made the front page of the paper. Rose was interviewed on a local radio station, Bay Radio.

News of the award was put on the Trust's intranet.

A rapid response service within a wheelchair service

John Fitzpatrick, clinical lead occupational therapist, Cardiff and Vale Local Health Board

Improving quality – measuring and demonstrating impact

Sponsored by The Scottish Government



Feedback awaited from:

Health & social care reablement pathway development project

Sandra Kennelly, rehabilitation service team leader and Carmen Davis, senior occupational therapist, Sandwell PCT

Development of integrated COPD service

Catherine Sheeran, acting head of specialist primary care services and Wendy Henning, specialist COPD physiotherapist, Southern Health & Social Care Trust

Non-invasive ventilation service

Catharine Thomas, consultant physiotherapist, Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Enhancing public health and creating healthy communities

Sponsored by Welsh Assembly Government



Food for Health awards

Michele Sandelson, public health dietitian, NHS Tower Hamlets and Altan Ahmet, principal environmental health officer, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

This project has had excellent coverage in the BDA's magazine.

Michele sent us the following message after the awards:

'I am the winner (along with my colleague Altan) of the AHA Enhancing Public Health and Creating Healthy Communities for our project working with food businesses in East London. I have trained food safety officers in the Council to talk about healthy catering with food businesses and refer interested ones to me or Altan for us to provide an intervention. I have been meaning to write since the Award ceremony to say thank you so very much for a wonderful day; it was really superb and even if we had not won, it would have been extremely motivating. I felt so proud to be amongst such amazing AHPs.

'However, I am so glad we did win for very particular reasons and would like to tell you what amazing consequences your Award has had for me; I am sure I am not the only Award winner to have experienced these amazing consequences. I feel it is important for you and your team to know that the very hard work and time you put into the AHA organisation has far reaching benefits to both the health professional and the health of the wider public.

'Firstly my colleague, who works on the project with me, works in Environmental Health and him and the food safety officers in the Council never win anything like this. They are a wonderful team and so keen to work on health promotion, yet are seen in an enforcement role. They rarely, if ever, receive thanks or recognition. The resulting pride of Altan and his team led to renewed vigour and increased motivation to continue to work on changing our food environment to a healthier one. Altan had confessed to me that he had been feeling rather despondent in the troubled times within public sector services but this had disappeared after receiving our Award.

'Secondly, I had been applying for some funding from a Charity in order to continue the project and had been having problems obtaining the required supporting signatures for the bid. I had tried for an extension to the deadline but was told this is something they never ever do. I rang them after we received our Award to tell them about it and the Director of the Charity contacted me to say they would allow me extra time for submission. Wow!

'For me personally - my Commissioners in Public Health are obviously rather delighted with my achievement. This has boosted my career substantially which is a boon in these times of efficiency savings within the NHS. Although nobody's job is secure in the NHS right now, your Award has added a little protection as well as potential for being recruited elsewhere.

'Finally, Radio 4's Women's Hour contacted me after reading a press release on the AHAs, asking to interview me. After speaking to them, they were so interested they now want to do a feature. Aside from the great publicity for my project and future funding this might bring, my friend's are all terribly impressed.

'So I would like to say a huge thank you. It was a fantastic idea to develop this Award for us and the benefits it brings can never be over-estimated.'

Bristol Active Life project

Margot Hodgson, senior physiotherapist and Mark Owen, physical activity development officer (mental health), Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Margot Hodgson writes: 'News spread throughout the trust as a result of the success of the Bristol Active Life Project (BALP).

'Achieving recognition at the Awards for has been vital for this project. Through this achievement the profile of BALP has been raised. Emails of congratulations have been received from the deputy Chief Executive within the Trust. In addition the Executive board is more aware of the success of the project and its potential to develop. This is essential as BALP only has one year's funding left.

'The awards ceremony provided the opportunity to network with many different people, in particular Lisa Hughes, Allied Health Professions Officer for the Department of Health. This resulted in Lisa visiting Bristol to see BALP first hand. During Lisa's visit a very constructive meeting took place with BALP partners and key people within AWP. A wider discussion took place about the future of BALP and how it fits with the Governments national perspective.

'BALP is a relatively small project within a very large organisation. This project is breaking new ground and is highly valued by the mental health service users who participate regularly in physical activity through it.

'These awards have raised the profile of BALP, which is vital to ensure that this project continues to be delivered and hopefully in the future will be replicated in other mental health trusts.'

Feedback awaited from:

Remote pulmonary rehabilitation using telehealth

Amanda Stears, specialist physiotherapist and Carol Maguire, senior physiotherapy technical instructor, East and Midlothian Pulmonary Rehabilitation Service

Innovation in recruitment and career development

Sponsored by NHS Employers



Case studies of all these projects are on the Shared Learning section of the NHS Employers website.

To develop the competencies and skills of allied health support workers to assist in reducing waiting times for physiotherapy out-patient services

Julie Hunter, therapy team leader across all sites, Maria Westwood, Alison Bartlett, and Alison Jackson, clinical team leader out-patients, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust

The implementation of the Maroondah approach to clinical services Helen Dobson, speech and language therapist and Margaret Macdonald, speech & language therapist, Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership

The development of competency workbooks to support the learning and development of AHP healthcare support workers Jane Reid, AHP education lead and Alison McIntyre, AHP practice education facilitator, NHS Tayside

Further feedback awaited.

Allied health professionals and healthcare scientists: leading together on health

Sponsored by Unite the Union



Unite has given all three shortlisted entries good coverage in its newsletters and website.

Multi-disciplinary management of vocal cord dysfunction: streamlined patient pathway
Sarah Manney, clinical scientist and Nicola Pargeter, principal speech & language therapist, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust

Developing cost effective patient dummies to optimise medical imaging
Peter Hiles, head of radiation physics and Lynn Bateman, clinical physicist, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Moving On - helping deaf adolescents to access adult services

Becky Frewin, highly specialist speech and language therapist and Rachel Knappett, senior audiologist, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The chief scientist's award for leadership (England)

Sponsored by Department of Health England



Redesigning laboratory services for the future

Shirley Spoor, consultant clinical biochemist and Jean Wardell, clinical director, Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The July edition of the Biomedical Scientist Gazette covered the award and the August newsletter edition of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB) will do so. Shirley spoke at FOCUS (the national meeting for the ACB) in May 2011 and has been invited to speak at FiLM (Frontiers in Laboratory Medicine) in 2012.

She has received e-mails from various senior members from the Trust Board and an article was published in Interactive - the Trust newsletter which is circulated both internally and externally to NHS organisations associated with the Trust. She has been congratulated by senior colleagues in the ACB - including the President.

Cardiopulmonary exercise testing in the assessment of fitness for vascular surgery

Joanna Shakespeare, clinical service manager and Julie Aughton, senior respiratory physiologist, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Joanna has had an article in the Coventry Telegraph and a big write up in the Trust newsletter.

Feedback awaited from:

Antiviral drug resistance testing

Peter Tilston, clinical scientist, Central Manchester NHS Foundation Trust

The chief health professions officer's award for leadership (England)

Sponsored by Department of Health England



Development of a home enteral tube feeding service for patients
Vicky Chudleigh-Emson, home enteral feeding specialist dietitian, Plymouth Hospital NHS Trust

Vicky has had extensive coverage in the internal and external media. The CHPO's Bulletin included a feature about her achievement. The BDA's journal has covered her project, along with the other dietitian winners, two months running.

She has recently had a one-to-one coaching session with Karen Middleton, CHPO, and plans to use her prize money to help fund a masters degree.

Productive community services: achieving organisational spread
Anna Troughton, occupational therapist and quality improvement facilitator, NHS Bolton

Anna reports that she has had recognition at trust board level at NHS Bolton and then in quality newsletters for NHS Bolton and Bolton Foundation Trust . The Bolton Evening News ran an article with photo and the College of OT, OT News also ran a short article. She has since been contacted by an NHS staff member in Wales who saw the write-up of the awards and contacted her for further information.

Time to talk for every child in Warwickshire
Alex Williams, speech and language therapist and Melanie Packer, speech and language therapist, NHS Warwickshire

Alex writes: 'We had a lot of internal recognition – it was mentioned in our NHS trust newsletter. The communication champion Jean Gross raised it at one of her meetings with our chief executive. We got a mention in the RCSLT national bulletin. I have had three contacts from other speech and language therapists wanting to know more about our work. Most importantly for us I think it gave a boost to our bid for continued funding for our work'

From the CHPO's Bulletin

Follow the leader

May 18, 2011

Vicky Chudleigh-Emson's commitment to a patient-centred service and great leadership has seen the dietician's achievements placed into the spotlight.

A few weeks ago, Vicky Chudleigh-Emson received a message from the other side of the world. It was the Director of Nutrition for Gold Coast Australia, emailing to ask Vicky, a dietician from Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, for ways to improve their service.

It was a message that showed how far Vicky had come. From taking the first steps to developing a home enteral feeding service in 2005 in Plymouth to last month's news that she had been awarded The Chief Health Professions Officer's Award for Leadership (England) at the Advancing Healthcare Awards, it's been quite a journey.

During that time, she has created a patient-centred service with a standardised approach to care. She's increased collaborative working both within the trust and with partner organisations, introduced regular audits, and made simple, effective changes to improving the experience of feeding through a tube.



Vicky receiving her award

Transformation

'The transformation has been a step-by-step process over a period of time, but one that has resulted in a large transformation,' says Vicky. 'We're measured against nine standards for our service, and in six out of those nine we score above 95 percent in the most recent audit.'

Patient turnover has also increased from 45 to 76 percent.'

The service has not only achieved this feat, but reduced the number of infections, complications and avoidable hospital admissions at the same time. Vicky puts her success down to having a clear vision, working with a dedicated and motivated team and an ability to see things through.

'There will always be barriers to change, that's part of life,' says Vicky. 'But if you believe in what you're doing – and have the patience to see it through – then you can overcome these barriers.'

A year to remember

It's been an incredible 12 months for Vicky. Not only has she scooped the award for leadership, but she was also part of the team that won the National AHP Leadership Challenge in July 2010 and has recently been invited to a team developing a leadership programme for the Plymouth Hospitals Trust.

'Its all been quite overwhelming,' says Vicky. 'It's quite a shock to have such recognition all of a sudden. I'm delighted though, as for many years people didn't know about the great work our team does. It's incredibly satisfying to be rewarded for that.'

'What I hope I can do now is share some of the things I have learned since 2005. I want to help other people with their leadership skills so we can learn from each other. I've been working on writing a short guide which I hope will help.'

Apply!

Katrina Kennedy, Physiotherapist and AHP Chief Health Professional Officer's Award for Leadership winner 2010, on why you should apply for the awards.

'I would never have expected an application for the Leadership category of the Advancing Health Care Awards to make such a difference. If you have invested time in an audit or service re-design, which has been implemented successfully, then you have the beginnings of a great application.

'We should all be sharing our best practice and by telling your story, including your struggles, it can be an excellent way of enabling others to mirror your journey. In the current climate of change and efficiency savings it is essential that innovation and good ideas are given a chance.

'If I hadn't filled in the application and told my story, I wouldn't have experienced the amazing journey of the last year which has changed the way I am perceived and made me an agent of my own fate.'

From the website of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

A physio-led team from Lincolnshire triumphed at this year's Advancing Healthcare Awards, for AHPs and healthcare scientists, being named overall winners.

The Hope specialist service, based in East Marsh, Grimsby, offers a patient-centred 'one stop shop' for people with COPD and older people at risk of falls.

Physios Pam Hancock, COPD lead, and Kylie Farbrace, falls lead, run a multidisciplinary team that uses expert patient volunteers who act as 'buddies' and positive role models for patients. The expert patients attend a pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) programme and provide support as motivators and mentors for the patients.

'I think one of the reasons we've been successful is because we don't just have volunteers making cups of tea – we really try and involve them,' explains Pam Hancock. 'Our buddies provide realistic role models for the patients.'

Significant Improvements

The service's innovative rehabilitation programmes have resulted in an 8% reduction in A & E attendance from local people aged over 65 and a 13% reduction in admissions to acute care, over a four year period.

As well as being named as the overall winners of the AHA 2011 the team also won in the 'Rethinking the patient care pathway' category.

'It's nice to be recognised,' said Pam Hancock. 'It gives you the confidence to keep going – and physios really need to have the confidence to develop services and not just be part of them.'

The team was handed its prize at an awards ceremony in London on 8 April



AHA overall winners Janet Coates (left) and Pam Hancock (right) from North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus. Photo: Chamberlain Dunn

News story from Grimsby Telegraph

Respiratory patients take part in stroll to thank charity for care

Thursday, June 16, 2011

RESPIRATORY patients put their best foot forward into the fresh air of Cleethorpes and raised money for the charity that “gave them their lives back”.

Patients, volunteers, staff and friends of the Hope Street Trust, in Grimsby, set off on a sponsored walk from the Pier Gardens, along the seafront and then back again.

STEPPING OUT: Hope Street Trust staff, services users and volunteers get ready to take part in the walk. Picture: Michelle Adamson Stretching a mile, for many of the people taking part it was an achievement they would not have thought possible a year ago.



They say they owe it all to the dedication of Hope Street, which recently won the overall Advancing Healthcare Award.

The national accolade was awarded to them for their innovation in healthcare practice and the difference it has made to their patient’s lives – which was plain to see at the walk yesterday. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) lead, Pam Hancock, said: “This is a massive achievement for our patients.

“Before rehab, this is probably something they never dreamed the could do. It shows that we have given them their lives back. It sounds like a big statement, but they say it to us so many times.

“We are so proud to have been recognised as being the best in our field out of all the others in the UK.

“We are leading the way on a national level and we have done that by engaging with patients and by having fun – just like the event taking place now.”

The walk marked the start of A Week Of Hope, which will see a host of events take place across the borough promoting the work of the trust.

They not only deal with COPD services, but also North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus Falls. Babs Farman, 71, who took part in the walk, said: “A year ago, I couldn’t have walked this far. It also feels good to be here with everyone else who have similar problems as me. They have helped me so much.”

David Towers, 64, has had four sessions of rehab since moving to Cleethorpes for the fresh air following his emphysema diagnosis.

Before the walk, he said: “I might be hanging on at the back, but I’ll try my best.

“The fresh air of Cleethorpes helps my condition tremendously.”

Margaret Walmsley, 69, has suffered with COPD for 30 years.

“Today is a big achievement, even if I haven’t got to the end yet.”

Active Life scores with DoH

A recent Department of Health visit to Bristol team managed to pack in serious discussion...and a game of football

Lisa Hughes, Allied Health Professions Officer for the Department of Health visited the Physiotherapy and Exercise Services at Callington Road on 3 June. Lisa had previously met some of the Bristol Active Life Project (BALP) team at the Advancing Healthcare Awards 2011 in London, when BALP was nominated Runner up in the category 'enhancing public health and creating healthy communities'.

Lisa's visit to Bristol provided the opportunity for a wider discussion about the future of BALP and how it fits in with the aims of the Governments National Perspective. Lisa identified that BALP achieves all five domains set out in the NHS outcomes framework, as well as achieving success in effective partnership working with agencies outside the NHS, to achieve a high quality service.

The highlight of the visit was attending a BALP football session where Lisa was able to meet many of the participants. She was impressed by the enthusiasm of the players and was particularly impressed by those who are currently undertaking sports coaching qualifications through BALP.

BALP active again in the awards stakes

Bristol Active Life Project (BALP) was named runner-up in the national 2011 Advancing Healthcare Awards for Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists.

The team was shortlisted in the 'enhancing public health and creating healthy communities' category, up against stiff competition from up and down the UK. They were the only mental health project to reach the finals.

The awards, now in their fifth year, recognise and reward projects and professionals that lead innovative healthcare practice and make a real difference to patients' lives in the healthcare science and allied health professions.

BALP works in partnership with people who experience severe and enduring mental illness by enabling them to improve their own health through sport and exercise in community facilities. The judges particularly praised BALP, a joint project with Bristol City Council, for offering employment opportunities for people with severe and enduring mental health problems.

Margot Hodgson, senior physiotherapist with AWP, represented BALP at the ceremony at The Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington along with BALP participant Adam Stone, sports technician Paul Davies, Bristol City Council physical activity development officer (mental health) Mark Owen and Howard Lawes, deputy director of quality and healthcare governance.

Margot said: "The physiotherapy and exercise service for AWP were delighted to be named 'runners up' in this national award for allied health professionals and healthcare scientists. Participating in physical activity through BALP has been identified by many service users as key in their recovery. We hope 'active life' will continue to be developed across the Trust."

This latest success for BALP comes hot on the heels of achieving third place at the prestigious Bristol Health Innovation Showcase last month.

There have been 429 referrals to BALP, with 4,639 attendances at 18 weekly physical activity sessions in local community leisure facilities. Other achievements of the project have been monthly football leagues, annual badminton and football tournaments and regular spectator attendance at Bristol City Football Club. Several service users have found jobs, four have joined mainstream sports clubs and several more have gained activity-related qualifications.

Howard Lawes said: "Congratulations are due to BALP for doing so well in this celebration of good practice. There were extremely strong entries from all over the country so BALP did brilliantly just to get to the finals."

For more information about the awards visit: <http://www.ahpandhsawards.co.uk/>

Briefing: 16th-20th May 2011

Parliament, Politics and Legislation

- Members' Motions

S4M-00036 Kenneth Gibson: NHS Ayrshire and Arran Leads the Way in the Nutritional Care of People Affected by Cancer

That the Parliament congratulates NHS Ayrshire and Arran's dietetic department on winning an Advancing Healthcare Award 2011 for the development of its innovative education programme, Nutritional Care of People Affected by Cancer; notes that this e-learning course is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom and has been developed with funding from Macmillan Cancer Support; recognises that it is important for cancer patients to have a healthy and balanced diet in order to maintain their strength and energy, help to promote healing and ensure that they avoid the complications that can be brought on by malnutrition, including severe weight loss; believes that by educating healthcare staff and giving them knowledge, skills and confidence, this course will help to deliver good nutritional care and advice to people affected by cancer; considers that NHS Ayrshire and Arran's healthcare professionals provide world-class cancer treatment and support, and commends their hard work and commitment.

Supported by: Elaine Smith, Bill Kidd, Jim Eadie, Roderick Campbell, Brian Adam, Gil Paterson, Margaret Burgess, Jackie Baillie, Derek Mackay, Richard Lyle, Clare Adamson, Chic Brodie, Mike MacKenzie, Stuart McMillan



Les Reid INSIDE THE WORLD OF POLITICS

Is 'localism' really giving more power to the people?

"DEVOLVING power to local communities" is one of the defining policy aims of the coalition government.

It may seem a dry, abstract concept to some – like PM David Cameron's related notion of the Big Society.

But the underlying philosophy is simple. It's supposedly about handing people and communities more power over their lives, away from central and local government.

It plays into traditional Tory values of individual choice and free enterprise. For Lib Dems, the concept appeals to the liberal notion of freedom from the state.

So how much power, freedom and choice from government will aspects of "localism" really give people in Coventry and Warwickshire? Some conclude the answer is, "Not much".

Take two current issues. Firstly, the government says Coventry people will decide if they want a new all-powerful London-style mayor to head up Coventry City Council.

Yet, apparently because ministers fear many city's councils will campaign hard for a 'No' vote, the government is set to impose "shadow mayors" before voters get a say in a referendum next year.

By forcing the "temporary" change, they hope to persuade voters and avoid a repeat of the AV referendum – when people were not persuaded the change on offer would make a difference.

Mayor hopeful Bob Ainsworth MP told hostile Labour colleagues opposed to mayors that councils with mayors would get extra powers from government.

Those refusing to play the government's game would be left trailing, he contended, with hefty government cuts in any case taking more power away from local councils.

School heads appear to think the same gun-to-the-head choice is on offer over whether they should bid to the government to become an academy – and 22

Coventry and Warwickshire schools have done so far. Striking staff last week closed two city schools hoping to become academies – Woodlands and Tile Hill Wood.

They believe comprehensive education – and equality of op-

“ School heads appear to think they have a gun to their head in choosing whether to bid to become academies

portunity for children – is under attack from government reforms aimed at creating competition between schools.

Academies would have greater freedom from councils, but not from their direct paymasters in central government. With more freedom over curriculum and salaries, teachers fear national

agreements on pay and conditions will be ripped up. Coventry City Council's Labour leaders are equally unhappy with government plans to take £2.4m from its budget for providing support services to all city schools.

Councils are having their budgets top-sliced by £400m – up to seven times more than necessary they complain – with the money going to new academies nationwide to buy in support services, including from private firms. Councils argue standards will be eroded and disadvantaged schools will suffer, claiming they deliver value-for-money and expert support, from advice on finance to special needs and bullying.

But Woodlands head Neil Charlton estimates academy status would give the school £250,000-a-year extra, through extra grant and savings in support services. Echoing many heads' views, Mr Charlton states "it would be better to be seen as an academy" and it would put his school at the "forefront" of educational reform."

Don't miss Les Reid's blog at www.coventrytelegraph.net

ARE YOU FIT TO GO UNDER THE KNIFE?

By Warren Manger
HEALTH REPORTER

PATIENTS in Coventry and Warwickshire are being given fitness tests to help surgeons decide whether to operate and which type of surgery is best.

Everyone who undergoes vascular surgery on their arteries or major veins at University Hospital in Walsgrave now has the rigorous check-up. Bosses say the exercise testing has already helped to cut the number of patients who die after surgery.

It has also reduced the amount of time patients have to spend in intensive care or on another ward after their operation, which in turn saves the NHS money.

The project has proved such a success it has now been named as runner-up for the Chief Scientific

Patients are given fitness tests before ops to cut risk of dying after surgery

Officer's award for leadership in advancing healthcare.

Joanna Shakespeare, clinical service manager at the the UHCW NHS Trust which runs University Hospital, said: "I'm delighted, this achievement clearly demonstrates the impact this has had."

The service at UHCW uses exercising testing equipment (CPET) to help surgeons make a better decision. Patients are now given a full test to check they are fit for surgery. Their peak oxygen consumption and their anaerobic threshold (the point at which lactic acid starts to build up in the muscles) are used to help predict the outcome of the operation. Since the

project began the death rate following open artery repairs has dropped from one in seven (14.3 per cent) to less than one in 25 (3.7 per cent). The average hospital stay also fell from 16 days to 11.

Ms Shakespeare said: "At first, I noticed that the new equipment was not being fully utilised and found out that the trust had higher than average mortality rates for open repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms. Initially, we started off by launching a pilot service using CPET to assess for fitness for surgery instead of the conventional measures currently being used."

"The success of the service

has meant that we have had to extend the pilot service to assist surgeons in deciding which type of surgery to offer patients, it was also evident that there was a reduction in the number of lives lost and it saved money too. We hope to be able to expand the service for other surgery in the near future."



TOP IDEA: Joanna Shakespeare and Julie Aughton were named runners-up for the chief scientific officer's award for the idea

Takeaway gets insect all-clear Hair-loss ad claims 'misleading'

A CHINESE restaurant which was accused of supplying a family with a bag of prawn crackers containing a cockroach has been given a clean bill of health by Coventry City Council.

Mum-to-be Sophie Russell, 18, of Woodway Park, said she found the insect in food ordered from the Golden Parlour takeaway in Far Gosford Street earlier this month.

Since then teams from the council's environmental health department have conducted an extensive search of the restaurant and have discovered no evidence of the pests.

Officers praised the Golden Parlour's "clean, tidy and orderly kitchen". Cockroach stations were placed in the area, but none were trapped.

AN ADVERT for a supplement that claimed to reduce hair loss has been banned by a watchdog for being misleading.

The manufacturers of Viviscal said it contained "a rich compound of marine extracts, organic soluble silica and fortified vitamin C" while provided "the nutrients needed for healthy hair".

The national press advert also

featured a testimonial from actress Sue Holderness who played big-haired Marlene in sitcom *Only Fools & Horses*.

She stated: "I liked the fact that Viviscal is all-natural and the scientific evidence seemed to make it well worth a try."

"My hairdresser was astonished at the improved appearance of my hair."

InBrief

New security CCTV cameras at hospital

FIVE extra security cameras have been installed at the Hospital of St Cross in Rugby. The external cameras cover the main entrance and the car park and include an extra number plate recognition camera which will be monitored 24 hours a day to create a safer environment for patients and workers.

Barry Newell, security management specialists at the UHCW NHS Trust, which runs St Cross, said: "Staff at the trust have the right to be able to do their job and care for patients without the threat of violence. "We want to do all we can to minimise this threat."

The security of hospital staff is currently a particular issue since a midwife and support worker were brutally beaten by a new uncle while working on the maternity unit at University Hospital in March.

That incident prompted UHCW to review security on the ward, give staff new guidelines.

Free library fun day for all the family

A FUN day will be held at Coventry's Central Library in Smithford Way next month as part of National Family Week. The free event on Saturday June 4 will include information stands, summer fete games, a holiday memories display and free goodies between 10am and 2pm. Punch & Judy will also be making an appearance at 11am and 12.30pm to keep young visitors entertained.

The aim of National Family Week is to encourage families to spend more time together and to provide opportunities, events, ideas and money saving offers to achieve this.

Strange world

A PLANET 20 light years away is the first outside the Solar System to be officially declared habitable by scientists. The "exoplanet" Gliese 581d has conditions that could support Earth-like life, including possible oceans and rainfall. However, the carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere would almost certainly not be breathable by humans.

Former Sky Blues star's drug charge

FORMER Coventry City starlet Rob Ogleby is facing a drug allegation.

The 19-year-old, pictured, and teammate Ian Black at his new club Hearts were allegedly caught with an illegal substance in an Edinburgh nightclub.

The pair were detained on suspicion of possessing a Class A drug and later released.

A spokeswoman for Lothian & Borders Police said: "We had two people detained, both were cautioned and charged."

Motorist in hospital after crash on M6

AMBULANCE crews were called to a crash between a lorry and car on the M6 motorway near Coventry yesterday.

The collision happened on the northbound carriageway before junction three, near Corley, at about 7am.

West Midlands Ambulance Service had taken one person to Coventry's University Hospital.

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It's been a very busy month here at the BDA due to our annual conference. BDAC was a huge success and it was great to meet so many members at the event. Thank you to those of you who attended. We will have a full review of the conference in next month's issue.

Turn to page 5 for the biggest news this month. The BDA is extremely proud of four dietitians who were awarded the very significant and prestigious 2011 Advancing Healthcare Awards. This is an extremely important achievement and the winners' success is a brilliant representation of the pioneering work done by many dietitians around the country. Without these awards, we would not hear about such work as dietitians do not take it upon themselves to publicise their achievements. In addition to the news about these winners, please do share with us any inspiring success stories; *Dietetics Today* should be used a platform for dietitians to boast about their achievements, the membership needs to be encouraged to show off the good work that is being done.

May is Coeliac Awareness Month and our feature on page 12 demonstrates the how Coeliac UK's store tours encourage awareness of the condition in a practical and engaging manner. The book review on page 45 is also related to coeliac disease. In continuation of our CPD features see page 16 for a Kellogg's article about the benefits of breakfast clubs. On page 22 we have also included a feature about the new dysphagia descriptors. Lastly, we all know that malnutrition in hospital settings has been a hot topic in the media recently, and so on page 36, Claire Fenlon talks about what UK healthcare professionals can learn from her first-hand experience of hospital care abroad.

This month's issue also includes shorter articles about the PKU Conference (page 33), higher education placements (page 24), and BDA political activity (page 30).



Enjoy the issue,
Simret Bassra-Brar
Editor

Material for inclusion in the June issue should reach the editor by 1pm May at least. The deadline for the...
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NEWS

DIETITIANS SHINE AT THE 2011 ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS



From left to right: Debbie Provan, Vicky Chudleigh-Emson, Pauline Mulholland, Michelle Sandelson, Alan Ahmet (Principal Environmental Health Officer), Sharon Little, Andy Burman

Dietitians are neither comfortable nor familiar with singing their own praises, and so the BDA is delighted to do this for them! The 2011 Advancing Healthcare Awards has recognised dietitians as a truly valuable profession by conferring four dietitians with the event's most significant and prestigious awards.

What are the Advancing Healthcare Awards?

The awards recognise the achievements of allied health professionals and healthcare scientists and are now in the fifth year of running. This year they were held on the 8th April at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington, London. Andy Burman - BDA Chief Executive, and Pauline Mulholland - Chairman of the BDA Professional Practice Board attended the event. The awards are supported by all four UK health departments: NHS Employers, Unite the Union, the AHP Federation, and the Federation for Healthcare Science.

With the impending drastic changes to the NHS these are difficult and challenging times, but despite all of this uncertainty these awards serve to remind us of the fantastic work that is being done by healthcare professionals around the

UK. There are ten awards in total, that recognise professionals that lead innovative healthcare practice, making a real difference to patients' lives. The BDA is proud of the fact that four dietitians won in three categories of the 2011 Advancing Healthcare Awards; this is clear-cut proof of the hard work, commitment and innovation of people working in this profession.

THE WINNERS

The Chief Health Professions Officer's Award for Leadership (England)

This award is sponsored by the Department of Health (England) and was presented by Karen Middleton, Chief Health Professions Officer. The award promotes the winner as a leader within allied health and was won by dietitian Vicky Chudleigh-Emson for her home enteral tube feeding service (HETF) for patients.

Vicky established the service across three PCTs in the south west of England, working with both primary and secondary care.

The service enables patients to be self caring, has shown to improve health outcomes and has increased patient satisfaction. Additionally it has extended the role of the dietitian to cover the care of enteral feeding tubes/stoma tracts and has reduced the need for routine and emergency hospital admissions and the incidence of both infection and complication. These outcomes have led to a saving of over £25,000 by changing medications. HETF has met six of the nine standards of care above 95% and the remaining three above 85%, despite an increase in patient turnover from 45% to 76% since the service began.

Achieving Excellence in Learning and Development Award

This award is sponsored by Gatehouse Training Courses and was presented by Joy Shepherd, Course Co-ordinator. Dietitians Debbie Provan and Sharon Little won the award for their nutritional care in a cancer education programme.

The programme was set up in NHS Ayrshire and Arran in response to a staff survey. It has harnessed multi-media technology to deliver peer-assisted learning and multi-professional networking, enabling the sharing of good practice. The outcomes include improved nutritional knowledge and staff confidence leading to better nutritional care of cancer patients.

The Enhancing Public Health and Creating Healthy Communities Award

This award is sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government and was presented by Alison Shore, Therapy Advisor. The award was given to dietitian Michele Sandelson and environmental health officer Alan Ahmet for their scheme encouraging fast food outlets to sell healthier food.

Established in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (which has one of the worst childhood obesity rates in England against one of the highest concentrations of fast food outlets) the scheme included nutrition workshops and healthier frying and healthier cooking lessons for food business outlets (FBOs).

Nearly 60 FBOs have now been given a gold, silver or bronze award for changing the food they sell and have had their business added to a borough map to encourage the community to use the healthier outlets. Improvements include an Indian takeaway providing customers with free salad and fresh fruit, and a pie and mash shop cutting all hydrogenated fat out of their pastry and reducing saturated fat content by 20%.

These are all excellent achievements and the winners deserve to be congratulated for their fantastic progressive and visionary work. Dietitians rarely get the media coverage they deserve for their pioneering work and so we will be featuring in depth coverage of the 2011 Advancing Healthcare Awards and profiles of each of the winners in the forthcoming issues of DT.

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The 2011 Advancing Healthcare Awards – the dietetic impact

The innovative and often life changing work undertaken by dietitians has been recognised at this year's Advancing Healthcare Awards. The 2011 Awards saw four dietitians from various parts of the country receive awards for projects and initiatives that they have been involved with.



From left to right: Debbie Provan, Vicky Chudleigh-Emson, Patsie Mulholland, Michele Sandelson, Alan Almet (Principal Environmental Health Officer), Sharon Little, Andy Burnham

32 June 2011

Over the next few issues of *Dietetics Today*, we will include a profile about the winners and the high quality, award-winning projects that led to their success.

The 2011 Advancing Healthcare Awards took place in London on 8th April and are organised by Chamberlain Dunn, the publishers of *Health Workforce Bulletin*. The awards, which are now in their fifth year, seek to recognise and reward projects and professionals that lead innovative healthcare practice and make a real difference to patients' lives in the healthcare science and allied health professions.

The awards are supported by all four UK health departments, United Health Professions Federation, NHS Employers, Unite the Union, and The Federation for Healthcare Science. The awards are unique in that they are UK-wide and cover all these professional and specialists groups whose achievements so often go unnoticed.

This year Debbie Provan, Sharon Little, Michele Sandelson and Vicky Chudleigh-Emson were all delighted to receive awards. In this issue we focus on the work done by Debbie Provan and Sharon Little.

Achieving Excellence in Learning and Development
Debbie Provan and Sharon Little won the 'Achieving Excellence in Learning and Development Award' for their staff education programme which aims to improve nutritional care for patients with cancer. The project team at NHS Ayrshire and Arran developed an education

programme to tackle the staff's need for proper training on nutritional care in cancer.

The initiative began in response to a staff survey which showed a lack of confidence and knowledge, and a desire for teaching to be delivered in different ways. The team, led by Debbie Provan (Macmillan Project Lead Dietitian) and Sharon Little (Macmillan Dietitian) created an integrated multi-media programme which has been endorsed for CPD by the BDA.

Debbie Provan began her career as a community dietitian at Langbaugh PCT before moving to Knowsley PCT where she began as a specialist community dietitian. She then worked her way up to nutrition support team lead dietitian, specialising in head and neck cancer and home enteral tube feeding. From there she took on her current position as Macmillan Project Lead Dietitian within the Nutrition and Dietetics Department at NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

Sharon Little had previously worked in variety of positions at NHS Ayrshire and Arran including as a clerical officer, a communications facilitator and a specialist smoking cessation advisor before beginning her career in dietetics. In 2007, she started as a dietitian at NHS Ayrshire and Arran before moving on to her current role as Macmillan Project Dietitian.

Debbie and Sharon, supported by Macmillan Project Administrator Caroline Muirhead, created the programme which incorporates an e-learning package consisting of five modules, an intranet site, and a virtual classroom. This allows

live education to be delivered to up to 50 staff across the country via their nearest computer thus promoting peer-assisted learning and the sharing of good practice.

The project has resulted in an increase in training numbers – 140 staff were trained using traditional training methods in 2009 (an increase of 62% on the previous year), and a greater number of GPs and AHPs participated. In the first ten weeks of the e-learning programme being launched, 126 staff members enrolled. Since the project team have taken responsibility for delivering education, approximately six clinical sessions have been released each year, thus the dietetic team are able to allocate more time to direct clinical care.

The judges were impressed by the innovative approach and thought it was an excellent way of dealing with staff resourcing issues and including the patient voice.

Debbie said, "We have had a great deal of advice and support from our project steering group and a number of patients and carers living within Ayrshire and Arran; this award is a credit to all of them. The patients and carers have been particularly influential in the development of the project as their stories not only helped me to recognise the gaps in service provision,

and the areas of practice which needed strengthening, but relaying their stories within the education programme itself has enabled our messages to be delivered with a greater impact."

Sharon said, "It was fantastic to take part in the celebrations and I was surprised and delighted to win the award. It was great to see AHPs being recognised for their achievements and to see all the great things that are happening in the NHS across the UK."

The e-Learning programme can be accessed via Macmillan Cancer Supports Learn Zone page and is entitled "Nutritional Care of People Affected by Cancer". Those wanting to experience the virtual classroom should contact Debbie directly at Debbie.Provan@aapct.scot.nhs.uk. JT

By Hayley Davis



Sharon Little and Debbie Provan

www.bda.uk.com

Advancing Healthcare Awards recognise speech and language achievements

SLTs make their mark in this year's prestigious Chamberlain Dunn Awards

Nicola Pargeter, principal SLT at the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, and her clinical scientist colleague Sarah Manney are celebrating after winning the Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists: Leading together on health award.

Nicola, who has worked in vocal cord dysfunction (VCD) for more than 10 years, set up a clinic with respiratory clinicians for the asthma population in Birmingham in 2003. Nicola says VCD can be hard to diagnose as it often mimics asthma symptoms. Part of the project has been to establish exactly 'who has what' so the patient pathway can be streamlined, with the benefit of reduced hospital admissions for patients, improved health and reduced costs. Nicola is keen to set up a network of professionals interested in this area. If you would like to be part of this, email: nicola.pargeter@heartofengland.nhs.uk



Above: Nicola and Sarah receive their Leading together on health award **Inset:** Becky Frewin

Special mention also goes to Becky Frewin, highly specialist SLT at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She worked with senior audiologist Rachel Knappett and the Hearing Impaired Teenagers Support Healthcare Team to run a conference-style event for 48 deaf adolescents in East Anglia. This helped them make

the transition from paediatric to adult services. The team received the 'leading together on health' runner-up award.

Warwickshire NHS' 'Time to talk' project was a runner-up for the Chief Health Professions' Officer's award for leadership (England). Established in 2008 by SLTs Alex Williams and Melanie Packer, the project

aimed to improve access to speech and language therapy services. Children's centres across Warwickshire now have 36 speech and language champions working with the 'Time to talk' team. As a result, children are identified earlier and receive more timely support.

Finally, the Moray Speech and Language Therapy paediatric team's hard work has led them to being runners up for the Innovation in recruitment and career development award. The service has achieved an amazing turnaround in the quality of care provided with no waiting lists and a 36% rise in referrals. Speech and language therapists Helen Dobson and Margaret Macdonald and the rest of the team have seen the service improve dramatically since they adopted a new approach to service delivery.

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