

Our website www.homechoicecare.co.uk is currently under development with some fantastic additional features for you all to enjoy. You can now train on line, gain certification and even view your very own training log. We have information and training on various diseases, illnesses and conditions.



GET YOUR PERSONALISED LOG IN NOW by visiting: www.homechoicecare.co.uk.



In the very near future we'll have our very own chat rooms and even shopping on line. If you have any other ideas of services, or use for our website please call me on 07920 752041 – I would like to hear from anyone who wants to be part of the development discussions on the our website. **Don't delay, call me today.**

Patsy Daeche
Marketing / Communications Manager

Talent Spot

Jenny has had the pleasure of meeting Dylan Thomas' daughter Aeronwy Thomas who presented her with a signed book for her efforts.

This is Jenny's poem which was so well received:

Rage of the Righteous
By Jenny Edler

What is that I see in the distance, that catches my eye?
As the sun passes over the scene
I try to imagine the story behind how it got there
What's it all mean?

Not natural, that's for sure, I decide
Someone's thrown it away I conclude
Whatever it is, it shouldn't be here
But I'll stay calm, mustn't be rude.

You see I'm on the committee
Of "Keep Beaches Tidy Brigade"
So I must hold my temper 'til....
There, it's getting closer, just there, in the shade

The beauty is ravaged by this impostor,
My anger rises to the boil,
Why must man with all his skills
Always leave something to spoil?

An otherwise wonderful landscape
With its amazing colours and shapes,
But this shape adds nothing
But an ugly.....

As I draw near to the object of hate
I can hardly believe what I see
I had walked in a full circle
And the object had been left by me!

Compliments

A special Thank-you to the following staff who received compliments for the quality of the service provided to their service users since the last Newsletter.

Gail Bone, Lilian Brockwell, Julia Brown, Phillip Brown, Cheryl Clare, Merelyn Collins, Karen Cooper, Teresa Cross, Lynette Field, Keeley Foster, Ruth Gordine, Suzanne Griffiths, Lisa Hardy, Rebecca Hayes, Sheila Hayes, Kerri Hill-Burton, Michael Horton, Jessica MacDonald, Carie Seccombe, Donna Shelley, Karen Woodhams, Emma Young



Open Door

Local newsletter for Care Workers

New Pilot Schemes



Guaranteed Hours Contracts

This scheme is being rolled out to show our commitment to our care workers, all we ask is a little flexibility in return to ensure that we can meet the existing and future needs of our service users. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact me and I will be happy to discuss this further.



John Giffney, Care Director

Double Up Teams – ICT

We are currently interviewing and rolling out this exciting new project in Chelmsford and would be very interested in talking to any care workers who would like to take part in this development. Initially this encompasses the Writtle double run together with the Teas and PM Double Visits in Broomfield.

There are many benefits to this scheme which includes the use of a car during the various shifts patterns available, a guaranteed salary and our commitment to staff development on the NVQ3 programme.

Phil Brown and Tina Hull have already been successful in being appointed to the new posts available and are looking forward to the challenges it brings. The pilot will be rolled out from Sunday 8th June and if successful will be rolled out further in Chelmsford and Brentwood.

THANK YOU ALL.....

I would just like to offer my personal thanks to everyone who has provided additional support to ensure that our service users have their service level maintained regardless of sickness, annual leave or care workers moving on.....at times without the required notice provided which makes it difficult for all of us. This is not only appreciated by me personally but the whole of the office Team. As you know we are currently undergoing a period of change within the office and ask that you bear with us whilst individuals adapt to their new roles. Thank you. **John Giffney and the team.**

WANTED!

CARE WORKERS

up to £200 Reward

We are re-launching our "Recommend A Friend" scheme. That means that you could get from **£100** to **£200** for every Care Worker you recommend to Home Choice Care who is successfully employed and then works for us for 3 months. There are no limits to how many people you can recommend. It could be one, or it could be one a week. They just need to be the right kind of people to work in homecare. Please contact Jane Furnival on **0800 988 2278** for further information.

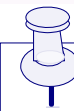
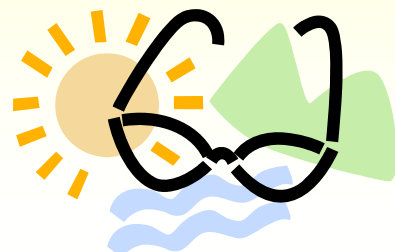
So don't delay – Earn that extra money right away!

Home Choice Care is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Holiday Season

With summer fast approaching, together with better weather.....we hope, most of us are thinking about a well earned break. It is important to remember however that we still need to maintain our commitment to our service users and that unfortunately not all requests will be granted. We will however, do our best to accommodate your requests but you may have to suggest an alternative date. We ask that you help us to help you, by putting all requests in to Val in plenty of time or give her a call to check availability before submitting a formal request.

It is important to note that a request itself is not a guarantee of approval and we would ask that you do not make any firm arrangements/bookings until your request is approved.



WELCOME BOARD

Welcome Sharon Brooker who was recently appointed to the post of Office Care Supervisor (OCS) for Chelmsford South. It is pleasing to see care workers progressing so well and having both the awareness and understanding of what it is all about "out there".

Welcome Heather Cook who helped out as an interim measure as an OCS for Chelmsford (North). Heather has now moved across to work along side Wendy Tickle in Brentwood.

Also welcome to the newest arrival, Claire Watts, who has now been appointed as the new OCS working along side Sharon.

What is an NVQ?

NVQ Level 2 in care is a vocational qualification which enables you to identify what skills you can do already in your role and also identifies areas where further learning and knowledge is required (depending on your experience) to meet this standard.

NVQ Level 3 in care is a vocational qualification for senior care workers, generally in a supervisory role.



How does it work?

You will be allocated an "assessor" or "mentor" who will guide and support you through the programme, assessing you on your work based performance. You will be required to attend a couple of workshops, held at the office, where you will meet the underpinning knowledge requirements within a supportive environment.

Your assessor will also carry out work place assessments, where you will be observed doing what you do best, providing the high standards of care to our service users that you are all capable of. In addition you may be required to provide some small pieces of written work to evidence your knowledge.

How long will it take?

NVQ's generally take anything between 3 – 6 months to complete depending on your existing knowledge, skills and individual circumstances.

What does it cost?

Full funding is available for those employees who meet the eligibility criteria and who have not already completed an NVQ or equivalent qualification.

For further information please contact Wendy (Dockrill)