



HCC Branch Info

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CARE WORKERS - £200 Reward



Don't forget if you have a friend with NVQ 2 qualifications and they are successful you could receive £200 once they complete their probationary period.



Registered and Regulated by the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate
Home Choice Care is an Equal Opportunities Employer



home choice
supporting your freedom

Open Door

Oxford Issue 4, June 2007

Two important things are happening right now for all Care Workers in the country let alone Home Choice care.

Firstly, the No Smoking ban came into effect on the 1 July. Quite rightly Service users have a right to smoke in their own home but it is a place of work for us. Please let us know if you feel that any particular visit worries you in regard to a smoking environment.



From 1 July businesses must have removed any existing indoor smoking rooms, and must display no-smoking signs. They must also take reasonable steps to ensure that staff, customers and visitors are aware that the premises is required to be smoke free, and that no-one smokes in those premises. Company vehicles or those used for work (including voluntary work) should be smoke free if more than one person is using them and regardless of whether those persons are in the vehicle at the same time. Please take time to look at the dedicated website : www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

Make sure you have your sign displayed clearly. Smokefree premises sign must be at least A5 in area (210mm x 148mm). You can obtain your Free Sign from the website above.

Secondly, its the school holidays coming up. We know that many care workers want to enjoy some of the holidays with their family. Let's make sure that holidays have been booked well in advance. Our Service Users need us 7 days a week and often 52 weeks a year so we must make sure all your calls are covered.

Don't forget to benefit from "**Recommending a Friend**", you can get up to **£200** for introducing an experienced, level 2 NVQ trained Care Worker. Let your branch know of any friends as soon as possible.

Shares in Home Choice

Finally, make sure you get your shares in Home Choice care this year. Cambridge branch Care workers will get their **FREE** shares during July, Essex, Kent, Oxford and Huntingdonshire will all get theirs in October/November. You will be offered 1 **FREE** share option for every 250 hours worked (average over the past 6 months), its our way of saying we want you to benefit by owning part of the company you work for.

Details will be sent to each branch as the shares become available.



Professor Justin Jewitt

Home Choice Care helps people live independently in their own homes by providing care workers to assist with their daily needs

Message from James Hussey, Finance Director

It is a great pleasure to be writing this as the new Home Choice Care Finance Director. Although having been in the Company for only a few weeks it is clear that I have joined a fast paced, growing business, which is passionate about the provision of high quality care. This passion and enthusiasm will play an important part in the continued success of Home Choice, which I am excited to be a part of.

What is evident to me, after visiting 4 of the branches, is the need to standardise all procedures across the Company, to make day to day operations easier and in turn enhance the quality of our service.

A crucial element of this is the globalisation of the Care Worker database in all branches, that is planned for implementation over the next few months. I am certain this will assist with the administrative burden currently experienced in the branches. I will be lending my full support to Trish Lewis Smith in the implementation of the system.

I would like to thank Sue Halsall for all the assistance she has given to me during this handover period and I wish her well in her move to Cumbria.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the very near future and thank you for the warm welcome I have been given.

James Hussey, Finance Director, Home Choice Care

Service User Safety

Home Choice Care believes the safety of our Service Users must be protected at all times. Recently our Gravesend Care Workers reported that 2 of their clients had had visits from individuals claiming to be care workers. These individuals were bogus and it appears they are targeting the homes of vulnerable adults. Because our Care Workers reported their concerns to the Gravesend office, we have been able to quickly notify Social Services and the Police of this potentially serious problem. Social Services have now circulated a warning to all Care Managers and Sheltered Housing Wardens. The Police have responded by increasing patrols in these areas.

These events have highlighted the importance of following our procedures for protecting our Services Users (pages 54 – 55 of your care workers manual). In ensuring you wear your badges at all times, follow the instructions for gaining access and sign the care plan you are contributing to the safety and wellbeing of you Service Users and potentially protecting them from crime..

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the Gravesend Care Workers for their diligence and their obvious care and concern for their service users.

Be Safe and keep up the good work team!

Julie Green, Regional Care Director



Training Update

By Lisa Nelms



Dementia courses available

7th September & 3rd October 2007
at Yarnton house

A Health and Safety Course will be running Wednesday 18th July and 24th July in branch. Look forward to seeing you there. The courses will last for 2 hours and start at 2:30 pm.

Mental Health Awareness courses:

16th July 2007 – Christchurch
7th September 2007 – Christchurch
30th October 2007 – Christchurch



NVQ LEVEL 2 INDUCTIONS

I will be running NVQ Inductions in the next two months as you will be aware all carers must be registered for an NVQ BY 1st January 2008. Please contact Lisa Nelms 01865 770412 for further information.

NEW ANGELS

As you know we've had lots of new Angels coming in for interviews. They will be coming in for inductions shortly and then will be out with you shadowing etc. Please welcome all of our new angels.



Please contact Lisa on 01865 770412 for further information.

Well Done!

Inductions completed

Lucy Chapman
Lanre Ojerinde

NVQ Units completed

Rachel Edwards Carter – HSC 14,
Nomsa Ntuli – HSC 31