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Staff News

Georgie, our Healthcare Apprentice, will be presenting at the "Social Care Apprenticeships - your future workforce" event this month.

This is an event sponsored by Skills for Care, which will take place at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Manchester on 2nd February. Future apprentices will also attend.

Job Opportunities

Due to the continued heavy spate of referrals for Abacus Care Cheshire's services we are currently taking on further part-and full-time staff.

If you know of any friend or family who would love to be part Abacus Care Cheshire's continued success please put their name forward.

We are sure you will continue to make new staff feel welcome.

Messages from the Director

Welcome to February's edition of the Update.

This month sees us participating at two major events: the "Social Care Apprenticeships - your future workforce" event on the 2nd February (see Staff News) and Cheshire East Council's "Unlocking the Future 2010 - Your life, your choice!" event on the 15th February. Later this year, to continue to put the client at the centre of what we do, there will be three events just for our clients, planned to take place in May, September and December. This will be an opportunity for our clients to come along and be updated about what is happening within Abacus Care Cheshire and the wider social care sector and for us to hear their views on our service. It will also be a good excuse to enjoy some nice food and pleasant company! All staff please take the opportunity to talk to your clients about our forthcoming "Client Forums" and ask if they would be interested in attending.

I'd like to end my comments by extending a big thanks to all the staff, who, in spite of treacherous driving conditions in the ice and snow, put our clients first and continued with homecare visits to ensure we kept them safe and well. A special thanks to Alison and Kim who manned Alison's 4x4 in the height of the snow onslaught.

Chris

Money Matters

Bank Holidays

Public holidays are paid at double-time from midnight to midnight. Below is a list of forthcoming bank holidays for the year:

2 April 2010	Good Friday
5 April 2010	Easter Monday
3 May 2010	May Bank Holiday
31 May 2010	Spring Bank Holiday
30 August 2010	Summer Bank Holiday
27 December 2010	substitute day for Christmas Day
28 December 2010	substitute day for Boxing Day
3 January 2011	substitute day for New Year's Day

For more information about bank holidays visit: www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/LivingintheUK

Contact Payroll via payroll@abacuscarecheshire.co.uk or by post at the SAT Office, 73 Manchester Road, Woolston WA1 4AE.



Events Calendar

We're changing the way we provide induction/refresher training to our staff. Starting this month we will be offering whole training days on Thursdays & Fridays. This month training will be provided on the 4th, 5th, 25th and 26th February. More specialist courses will be available on Saturday mornings. In addition, our new training and education room at Big Storage, Woolston will open on 1st February.

Keep up to date with the courses available and forthcoming dates of training days by visiting:
www.abacuscarecheshire.co.uk/events/calendar.htm

For further details on available courses and training dates or to register for courses, contact June via training@abacuscarecheshire.co.uk.

This month Abacus Care Cheshire will be exhibiting and speaking at events organised by East Cheshire Council and Skills for Care.

Picture Gallery

One of our regular clients, Andrew, clearly getting into the Christmas spirit last December!



Medical Device Alerts

Selected alerts from <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications>

18 Jan 2010 | Pole clamps for Infusomat Space and Perfusor Space infusion pumps manufactured by B Braun (MDA/2010/007)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued due to a risk of detachment of the infusion pump from the pole clamp if the manufacturer's instructions for use are not followed and the pole clamp components are damaged or missing following use.

18 Jan 2010 | Devices used for endometrial ablation. All makes and models (MDA/2010/006)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued due to continuing reports of uterine wall injury, wall perforation, or the creation of a false passage following use of endometrial ablation devices.

11 Jan 2010 | Action 3 and Action 4 manual wheelchairs manufactured by Invacare (MDA/2010/004)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued because the manufacturer has revised the instructions for use for various safety related aspects. Users who are unaware of these revised instructions are at risk of injury.

05 Jan 2010 | All types of bed mattresses (MDA/2010/002)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued as body or other fluids can pass through and contaminate the inner core of mattresses with damaged covers, with the potential for cross-infection if the contaminated mattress remains in use.



Department of Health News
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News>

Traffic Radio
<http://www.trafficradio.org.uk/>

I'm Free!

Starting this month you need to **submit your availability for the next week by 5pm on a Tuesday**. It is especially important to let us know times that you are not available. This is to ensure continued flexibility and to enable completion of the rotas as soon as possible

You can do this in the following ways:

Send details of your availability by post together with your timesheets.

Call us on 01925 820338, ensuring that you speak to someone rather than just leave a message.

Send the Managers an email via:
availability@abacuscarecheshire.co.uk.