



Abacus Care Cheshire Update

Issue 19, March 2010

In This Issue:

- 1 Messages from the Director
- 1 Staff News
- 1 Job Opportunities
- 1 Money Matters
- 2 Client Forum
- 2 Web Links
- 2 Medical Device Alerts
- 2 Events Calendar
- 2 2010 Staff Awards

Staff News

Kim has moved on to the David Lewis Centre as a lecturer. Luckily for us (fingers crossed) Kim intends to stay on the books and do the odd hour here and there. We wish Kim every success in the future.

We have a new healthcare trainer joining the growing in-house training team this month, John. John brings decades of knowledge and acquired skills which will benefit both staff and clients.

Job Opportunities

Due to the continued heavy demand 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 or tell them to get in touch!

Messages from the Director

As I write this (late as ever) the sunshine has been beaming through the conservatory windows - could Spring really be here and the ice and snow a distant memory? I hope so!

Abacus Care Cheshire will be hosting its first Client Forum in May this year. Further details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and will also be sent out with your payslips. It should be a great event and I look forward to seeing you there.

The Unlocking the Future event at Wyncham Park Hotel organised by Cheshire East Council on the 15th February provided Abacus Care Cheshire with the opportunity to strut its stuff! Thanks to Ann and Georgie for manning the stall and raising our profile as a service.

Recruitment has been frantic of late and appears likely to continue this way for the foreseeable future. Please continue to make new staff welcome.

Please take the opportunity to peruse the website www.abacuscarecheshire.co.uk for essential documents such as holiday forms, training and development opportunities, ideas on where to go for outings and lots, lots more.

That's quite enough from me. Back to work!

Chris

Money Matters

Childcare Vouchers

Now that our Payroll Officer has settled in, Abacus Care Cheshire is ready to provide an exciting new opportunity for staff.

Starting from May, we will be offering a childcare voucher scheme provided through Accor Services. This scheme can really reduce the cost of childcare because the vouchers are exempt from National Insurance, which could lead to a saving of up to £1,195 per year.

If you would be interested in joining the Childcare Voucher scheme please contact Payroll by email or post in the usual manner.

Accounts and Payroll Team



Client Forum

Announcing Abacus Care Cheshire's inaugural Client Forum, taking place at High Legh Village Hall on 17th May 2010.

The event will start at 10.30am and will include several short talks by the managerial team and a chance to have your say about Abacus Care Cheshire.

Lunch will be accompanied by the Jill Fielding Band playing a broad range of 'folk music with a squeeze of jazz and a touch of rock'.

The day will culminate in the 2010 Staff Awards ceremony and the Director's predictions for the future.

The event is open to all our homecare clients and all members of staff, so please do join us.



Social Care Quick Aptitude Test

<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/icarequiz/>

Health and Safety Executive

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Events Calendar

This next few regular training sessions will be provided in the training and education room at Big Storage, Woolston on the 25th and 26th March and 2nd April 2010.

Other upcoming events are as follows:

17th May 2010

Client Forum (details shown above)

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.

Medical Device Alerts

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

09 Mar 2010 | Medical Device Alert: All types of Oxford slings and standing harnesses, for use with hoists and stand aids, manufactured by Joerns Healthcare Ltd (MDA/2010/019)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued due to unclear instructions for use leading to occupants being injured as a result of incorrect use or inadequate inspections of slings before use.

09 Mar 2010 | Medical Device Alert: All models of mobile hoists, ceiling hoists and bathing lifts manufactured by Joerns Healthcare Ltd (MDA/2010/018)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued as a lack of maintenance and inspection of these devices could lead to the occupant falling and being seriously injured.

08 Mar 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Peripheral cannula, Nexiva closed IV catheter system with Q-Syte connector, manufactured by Becton Dickinson (MDA/2010/017)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued due to the manufacturer receiving reports of air entering into infusion lines through the BD Q-Syte connector, with a risk of air embolus to patients.

18 Feb 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Powerheart AED G3 and CardioVive automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) manufactured by Cardiac Science Corporation (MDA/2010/014)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued due to a small risk that the AED may not deliver a shock during a rescue attempt because the software self-test may not detect a fault with a specific internal component.

18 Feb 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Arjo Passive Clip sling and Arjo Passive Clip Flite slings manufactured by Medibo (MDA/2010/013)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued due to the incorrect attachment of the sling clips to the spreader bar, which can lead to the person in the sling falling out and injuring themselves or others.

10 Feb 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Teligen and Cognis defibrillators - specific models, manufactured by Boston Scientific (MDA/2010/012)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued because if these defibrillators are implanted subpectorally there are risks of loss of shock therapy, inappropriate shock therapy, loss of pacing therapy or loss of anti-tachycardia pacing.

08 Feb 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Servo 300 and 900 ventilators (SV300 and SV900) manufactured by Siemens (now Maquet) (MDA/2010/011)

This Medical Device Alert has been issued due to excessive negative pressures (eg using closed suction systems), which can damage the inspiratory and expiratory pressure measurement transducers. Such damage has led to high gas flows that subsequently caused bilateral pneumothoraces.

2010 Staff Awards coming soon!

The best support worker, as voted for by the clients, to be announced at the Client Forum.

1st Prize: £100, 2nd Prize: £50, 3rd Prize: £25