



New APL deal

The University of Sheffield School of Nursing and Midwifery is now able to accept accreditation of prior learning (APL) up to 60 degree level credits towards a BMedSci degree programme.

LBR funding for bank staff

If you are a bank nurse employed by a Trust within NHS Yorkshire and Humber (NOT an independent Nurse Bank/Agency) you are eligible for Strategic Health Authority funded modules and study days, with the agreement of your Trust Learning Beyond Registration (LBR) Lead.

Postgraduate Certificates in Cancer Care and Acute Care now recruiting

We are pleased to announce two new additions to the Advancing Care Framework: postgraduate certificates in Cancer Care and Acute Care (starting February 2012). You can apply for these courses online at www.sheffield.ac.uk/hscpcd or ring 0114 222 2030 for more details.

New recruits to the nursing profession



The School's first cohort of Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing students (pictured above) completed their course in September 2011. We are really proud of this outstanding group of students who engaged so wholeheartedly with the challenges of their course. This innovative two-year programme is characterised by a problem-based learning approach

in the theoretical element and a strong bias towards primary care and continuity of experience in the practice element. We congratulate them and wish them every success in their future careers. We'd also like to thank all the practitioners in learning experience areas who support our students so effectively, allowing them to learn, develop and shine.

Spotlight on Jane McKeown, specialist in dementia care

I am working with the School of Nursing and Midwifery as a Teacher/Practice Development Nurse for the next two years. The secondment is to support the School with the provision of dementia care education.

I trained as a Registered Mental Nurse and worked in a range of care settings for older people with mental health needs before moving into a practice development role. More recently my

work as a Senior Nurse has had a Trust wide focus on service user and carer involvement. My research focus has been on the use of Life Story Work with people who have dementia. I feel we care for people who have dementia and yet we often know very little about the lives they have lead. I have found life story work to be a powerful way of supporting the delivery of person-centred care. What's more, most people who get involved in using life story work

find it valuable and enjoyable.

My aim is to better understand and improve the care offered to people who have dementia and their family carers. This joint University of Sheffield/Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust appointment will support that aim.





Palliative Care in the Community

We are pleased to announce that another Palliative Care in the Community course has been added to this year's schedule, starting January 2012. The aim of this course is to enable health care professionals working in the community to develop their expertise around palliative care. It will allow them to make more informed decisions around symptom control and offer better support to individuals and their carers. It raises awareness of national and local priorities and gives opportunities for networking with staff from other localities.

There are three attendance days: 11th January, 17th February and 16th March. Although this course is not accredited, you can access the University APL/APEL system to gain 10 credits towards a Diploma in Clinical Practice or BMedSci (Hons) Health and Social Care Studies (Ongoing and Supportive Care). Please go to www.sheffield.ac.uk/hscpcd for details and application.

Introducing Louise Hall, Programme Coordinator



We are delighted to introduce you to a new member of staff, Louise Hall, who has recently joined the support team at the School of Nursing and Midwifery in Samuel Fox House. She is a law graduate and she plans to have a career in University administration. She is currently supporting students on the full-time BMedSci in Health and Human Sciences and the online nursing and midwifery masters programmes.

Pilot study to explore practice nurses' readiness for meeting the health needs of people with learning disabilities.



It is well documented that people with learning disabilities experience poorer physical and mental health than the general population. Numerous explanations have been put forward to account for these differences including socio-economic disadvantage, biological factors, communication difficulties, and personal health risks and behaviours. However, what is becoming clear is the impact that barriers to accessing timely, appropriate and effective health care have on the health experiences and life expectancy of people with learning disabilities.

In 2009, annual health checks for people with learning disabilities were introduced as a means of tackling health inequalities as part of a Direct Enhanced Service (DES) Scheme. Within this scheme, GP practices are remunerated for providing health checks for people with learning disabilities who are known to local authorities. Practice nurses have key roles in carrying out these health checks but to date no research has looked at their preparedness to undertake this role.

For more information about this study, please contact Dr Elaine Whitton (e.whitton@sheffield.ac.uk)

Reducing the time-lag between the onset of chest pain that could be due to a heart attack and seeking professional medical help

School of Nursing and Midwifery lecturer Mac Macintosh is working with colleagues from Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) on a systematic review of the literature on delay in reporting symptoms in heart attack. The aim of this project is to review recent evidence concerning firstly, the reasons people delay in seeking professional help when they have symptoms of a heart attack and, secondly, interventions that aim to reduce such delays.

Since the mid 1980s treatment for heart attack has evolved and today the intervention of choice is primary angioplasty. This procedure greatly improves the chance of a disability-free

life following a heart attack but needs to be delivered as soon as possible following onset of symptoms. For this reason, delay in seeking professional medical help is an important risk factor for poor outcome. Research has consistently shown, however, that patient delay is considerable and has reduced little over time despite a number of interventions using both mass media and targeted education. It is hoped that this review will lead to the development of a new intervention that can be tested in an empirical study. The review is led by Dr Peter Allmark of SHU commissioned by CLAHRC (South Yorkshire) and funded by Rotherham PCT.

