



29th October 2009
For immediate release

NEWS RELEASE

Education for Health students celebrate success at graduation awards

Leading education charity Education for Health is once again celebrating the benefits that commitment to life long learning can have on improving patient care and the impact that education can have as a lever for service improvement. At a moving and inspiring graduation ceremony held at St Mary's Church in Warwick on October 23rd 2009, 34 health professionals received an award in the presence of their family, friends and children.

"Our graduate's achievements speak for themselves" said Director of Education and Research, Samantha Walker. "We have been at the forefront of primary care education for 20 years and pride ourselves on the relevance of our Open University accredited programmes".

Fiona Shally from Coventry, Jacqui Cooper from Nottingham and Beverley Gofton from Bournemouth, were just three of the graduates to be both delighted by their personal achievement and the enrichment that study has given to their clinical roles. *"When I received my result, I felt a huge sense of personal achievement, because I had exceeded even my own expectations" said Fiona who works as a Clinical Nurse Specialist for NHS Coventry. She was awarded with an MSc in Respiratory Care, having already achieved a 2:1 BSc (Hons) in Respiratory Care in 2006 with Education for Health. Fiona believes that it is studying with Education for Health which has enabled her to achieve a greater depth as well as breadth of knowledge in the area of respiratory care: "All aspects of the BSc and MSc are beneficial to my role. My study with Education for Health has been*

particularly useful in helping me to understand the 'bigger picture' and was instrumental in assisting me with service development opportunities and becoming a more effective practitioner". Fiona plans to use the knowledge and skills gained from her education to develop a new specialist multi-disciplinary team in her local area.

Jacqui Cooper - a COPD Team leader employed by Nottinghamshire Community Health and also an esteemed Trainer for Education for Health, was "*absolutely delighted and shocked*" to pass her MSc in Respiratory Care with distinction: "*I had to keep reading the letter to make sure there was no mistake about who it was for, I didn't expect such a remarkable result*" she said. "*The training has increased my confidence, made me more credible in both my clinical role and my role as a trainer and has lead to better care for my patients. I feel better prepared to address and question any issues now*". Jacqui feels that without her MSc qualification she would have been at a disadvantage now that the government is driving a shift in nursing towards as all graduate profession: "*Even though I had many years of experience and had completed several other courses, I was beginning to feel under qualified as new nurses had higher qualifications than me. Having a Masters has given me options that I would never have had before; in fact I wouldn't have got my current job without it*".

Beverley Gofton, who was awarded with a first in BSc (Hons) in Respiratory Care, is a Respiratory Nurse Specialist at Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Beverley thinks the Education for Health learning style is very good: "*It offers an easy way to fit studying around job commitments and the study days were a great opportunity to meet other students working in similar environments to myself*". Having completed her studies several months ago Beverley highlighted the benefits her study has had to her clinical role: "*It has enhanced my day to day practice, and has particularly helped me to develop my communication and consultation skills. In terms of service development, studying towards my degree highlighted the clinical areas and patient groups that hadn't previously been fully covered within my practice*".

"Whilst we are proud of the personal and professional achievement of all our students" said Monica Fletcher Chief, Executive at Education for Health, "*what the experience of these graduates demonstrates is the benefit that commitment to lifelong learning can have on improving patient care and the impact that education can have as a lever for service improvement*". Education for Health are actively supporting the shift towards an all graduate nursing profession and have recently launched brand new degree and diploma programmes specialising in either cardiovascular, respiratory disease or long

term conditions management and more healthcare professionals than ever before are choosing to study degree, diploma and masters programmes.

“The new programmes are proving very popular because they offer even more choice of modules, flexibility and relevance to students. I’m proud to be part of these exciting changes” commented Yvonne Henderson, Programme Lead at Education for Health.

“The charity is busier than ever before, and expects to see an even higher number of health professionals graduate in future years. In fact 2010 will see the largest MSc intake to date!”

“I wouldn’t rule out a Masters with Education for Health in the future” commented Beverley Gofton. A statement which clearly illustrates both the relevance of the charity’s education and the commitment of its students to life long learning.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Photographic Images

Education for Health would be pleased to supply high resolution images of the graduation to support articles written

About Education for Health

Education for Health is the UK's leading education Charity for health professionals working with patients with long term conditions. It aims to provide a consistent, comprehensive and innovative approach to professional health training across the fields of cardiovascular, respiratory and allergic diseases, with the ultimate objective of transforming lives worldwide. Educational programmes are run nationally and internationally and are accredited by the Open University.

www.educationforhealth.org

For further information please contact:

Candy Perry

Head of Corporate Communications and External Affairs

Education for Health

01926 836995

c.perry@educationforhealth.org

Sarah Wilson

Communications Assistant

Education for Health

01926 838968

s.wilson@educationforhealth.org