



PRESS RELEASE

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New Education for Health Bursary: 50% funding for 5 nurses for 2 years to undertake Masters level education in respiratory care

Leading education charity Education for Health today announced details of its new Education for Health Bursary for Masters level education.

The new Bursary is available towards the first 2 years of the Charity's Masters programme in Respiratory Care and is being funded by the Charity from a bursary grant awarded to them from Allen and Hanburys. It provides 50% funding for 5 health professionals to undertake Masters Education for 2 years. This means health professionals can benefit from a much as £2000 sponsorship towards the first 2 years of the Masters Programme. In the first year students are actively encouraged to review their own role in relation to the provision of respiratory services nationally and locally and challenge themselves to achieve more than they thought possible to improve patient care.

48 health professionals are currently enrolled on the Charity's Masters Programmes which have been steadily accruing a reputation for a high quality, flexible learning experience with direct relevance to the students' own workplace setting. In recent years two students Carol Stonham and Tracy Hall received prestigious Queen's Nursing Awards in recognition for their contribution to service improvement in their local areas, and several others have received national awards including Sandy Walmsley who actually received three awards last year! The first from Sally Burton, CEO of the Solihull Care Trust, for 'Professional Excellence', the second was a BLF Respiratory Achievers Award and the third was a 'highly commended' integrated service award from IMPRESS.

Programmes are suitable for all health professionals involved in the care, management or delivery of respiratory services who want to develop leadership skills to make more of a difference to patients' lives. Confidence and competence develops quickly – one current student has taken on a nurse consultant role to lead respiratory services in her area. Another has implemented an entire COPD

service improvement focused on improving referrals to primary care pulmonary rehabilitation services and reducing emergency COPD admissions.

Education for Health Masters level Programmes concentrate on core principles of care for people with respiratory conditions and combine this with leadership development to provide an exceptional professional development experience. Students benefit from personal Tutor and peer support to choose specific areas of self directed study which are highly relevant to their own practice area and personal aspirations. As part of this work they evaluate the key skills and tools available in their areas for the assessment and management of a patient with complex needs. Current areas of personal study are looking at:

- Improving local TB prevention and management services
- Developing a centralised primary care respiratory service for General Practices
- Improving paediatric cystic fibrosis services by raising health professional awareness of the disease and improving links with and care in the community.

Students go on to use their self directed study to build core business skills, developing their ideas into business cases or service development proposals which would address local needs. In some cases these have been so successful that it has enabled students to obtain new advanced clinical roles or to become the lead healthcare professional for the development and management of new services. Option modules provide further opportunity for health professionals to study palliative care in end-stage respiratory disease, psychosocial aspects of respiratory disease, education to influence practice and global perspectives on the delivery of respiratory care.

How to apply for the new Education for Health Bursary:

The Bursary is available to any health professional working within the NHS. Applicants need to prepare a personal statement of no more than 500 words. This needs to explain why you should receive funding and include details such as the benefit of studying Masters level education to you, your colleagues, to your service and to your patients, and give consideration to the impact you will be able to have as a result of completing Masters Study. Applicants also need to complete a standard application form from: http://www.educationforhealth.org.uk/pages/education_training/programmes.asp#msc1

Personal statements and completed applications should be emailed to Clare Blenkinsop, Programmes Administrator on c.blenkinsop@educationforhealth.org by July 10th 2009. An Academic Panel will review all applications during the week of July 13th and successful applicants will be notified no later than 24th July.

Notes to Editors

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.

For further information please contact:

Candy Perry - Head of Corporate Communications and External Affairs
Education for Health
Tel: 01926 836995 Email: c.perry@educationforhealth.org

Sarah Wilson – Communications Assistant
Education for Health
Tel: 01926 838968 Email: s.wilson@educationforhealth.org