

News Release

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250,000 health sector staff develop essential skills with Skills for Health e-learning programmes – and reduce training costs in the process

More than 250,000 health sector staff are developing essential statutory and mandatory skills using online e-learning programmes from Skills for Health.

The flexible and cost-effective courses are used by almost 500 employers across the NHS, independent and voluntary sectors to ensure a safe and legally compliant workforce.

They include NHS Ealing, which is currently using the system to deliver a CQC-mandated course in Child Protection Awareness in Health to over 250 dental practice staff across its area.

Trust Business Manager Janine Smith said: “We have been using Skills for Health’s e-learning programmes for training dental staff and have been very impressed with the flexibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the system.

“The online delivery is particularly valuable because it means that staff can fit the training around their busy work schedules, reducing the need for day release and cutting down on costs associated with face-to-face training.

“We have also found it really useful to be able to track and monitor learners’ progress, so that we can see who has completed the training and who still needs to take it.”

More than 20 courses are now available via Skills for Health's e-learning programme, with subjects ranging from Health & Safety Awareness to Food, Nutrition and Hydration. All courses are developed by subject specialists and are endorsed by recognised national bodies.

Skills for Health Executive Director Sam Gallaher said: "At a time when employers need to get the maximum value from development budgets, Skills for Health's e-learning courses offer a high-quality, cost-effective means of delivering essential statutory and mandatory skills.

"Although they are not designed to completely replace face-to-face training, they can help to substantially reduce the staff and administrative costs associated with statutory and mandatory training. They also offer enhanced reporting functions which allow managers to keep track of learners' progress and help measure the impact of training interventions."

Skills for Health statutory and mandatory e-learning courses are suitable for new starters, updates and refresher training. The courses are free to NHS users based in England under an existing Department of Health contract, and available to other employers in the NHS, independent and voluntary sectors at highly competitive rates.

* Further information on Skills for Health's e-learning programme is available from www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/E-Learning.aspx or email clpu@skillsforhealth.org.uk

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Notes to editors

1. Skills for Health is the Sector Skills Council for all health sector employers: NHS, independent and third sector. Since 2002 we've been working with employers to get the right people, with the right skills, in the right place at the right time. We are the authoritative voice on skills issues for the health sector and offer proven workforce solutions and tools – with the expertise and experience to use them effectively. To find out more about our unique competence-based approach to workforce transformation and how we can help you drive up productivity and quality visit www.skillsforhealth.org.uk