

Celebrating Success

Skills for Health



To mark the completion of the UKCES two year European Investment Fund EIF2 project, [Skills for Health](#) recently organised an event to bring together people from many of the 120 organisations involved, to showcase the outcomes that have been achieved. And, there was plenty to celebrate for those who gathered in Birmingham on 5th March 2014 to take part in a day of shared learning through best practice, alongside a series of interactive workshops. Projects profiled at the event included the successful launch and national roll-out of the online network for healthcare professionals, [MyHealthSkills.com](#). Three strands of work were also created through EIF2 and highlighted at the event including [Quality Mark](#), [Roles Redesign](#) and [Skills Utilisation Network \(SUN\)](#).

What's inside?

Join a group, start a group,
make a change –
[MyHealthSkills.com](#)

Key workshop round-up

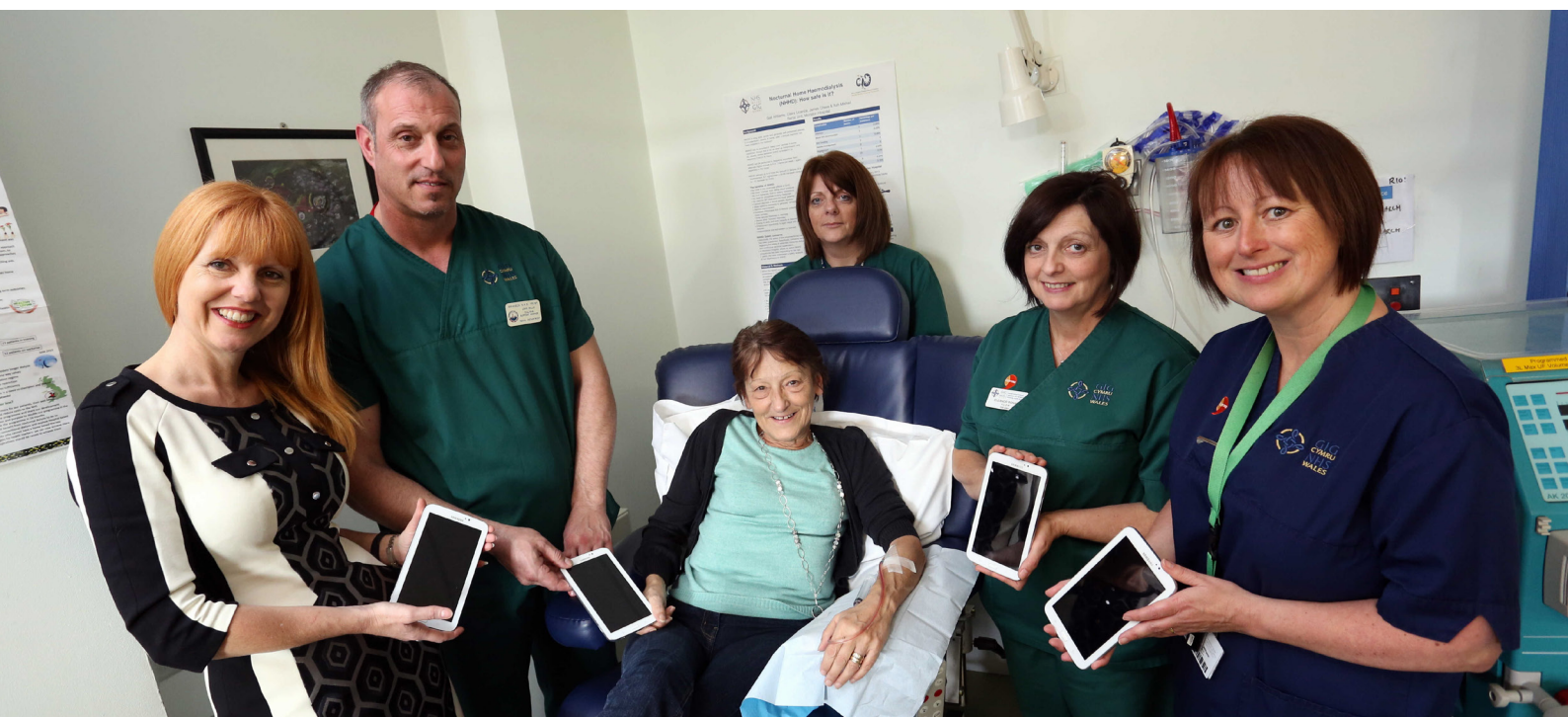
5 minutes with Mark Colbourne
MBE, Paralympic Gold Medallist

Join a group, start a group, make a change.

Presentations were made at the end of the day for the winners of a competition launched via MyHealthSkills.com called Workforce Impact Projects. Entrants were invited to submit a project which showed how a significant change made within the organisation resulted in better workforce planning, skills and improved quality of patient care.

Staff at the Self Care Renal Unit, Morriston Hospital in Swansea were delighted to be declared the winners by the Chair of the Employer Reference Group, Robert Standfield, for a project to introduce a Nocturnal Home Haemodialysis programme. Anne Clarke, Country Director for Wales, Skills for Health visited Sister Gail Williams, staff and patients at the hospital on World Kidney Day (13th March 2014) to present the competition prizes of 10 tablets which will be used to deliver education to staff and patients.

MyHealthSkills.com is an online platform accessible to everyone in the health sector from nurses and support worker to clinical directors and CCGs. The site provides a platform for those working within the health sector to connect and engage with each other and foster learning and development. This is the only social platform of its kind and is growing every day. Currently, the network has over 2,200 active members who are passionate about making a change in the healthcare sector. Topical blogs and news items about health care related topics and issues are posted on the site every day.



Sister Gail Williams and her team with Anne Clarke, Country Director for Wales, Skills for Health with a patient at Morriston Hospital

Key workshop round-up

Role Redesign: beauty or the beast?

Developing new roles including:

This interactive work-stream explored the barriers and issues encountered in developing and implementing new or redesigned support roles into the health care sector. Experiences were shared from a number of organisations who participated in the Role Redesign for Support Worker project. Jeana Arnott, Neonatal Clinical Educator at Scottish Neonatal Network and NHS Fife addressed delegates on the development of a new level 3 neonatal support worker. The new role will provide specific care activities to babies requiring special care and enable highly skilled neonatal trained staff to concentrate on caring for highly complex sick neonates.

The event also heard about the creation of a Wellbeing Co-ordinator Role (with 5 positions now in place based with Caring Together Integrated Neighbourhood teams) from Dominic Anderson Age UK, Cheshire East. The role aims to create pathways into voluntary sector services for patients within the NHS and is part of a wider objective to improve links between health and social care integrated teams, GPs and hospital services. Dominic discussed the successes of the project as well as sharing some of the barriers that need to be overcome including the challenges of navigating IT systems!

EIF2: Changes with Impact –

sharing learning from partner employees

This work-stream offered delegates the opportunity to hear from those employees involved in the EIF2 supported projects which have made a significant impact on quality of care or costs. Carole Goodwin, University Hospital North Staffordshire NHS Trust, alongside three nursing assistants, and one therapy assistant, shared their experiences of being involved in a project to improve the care of patients with dementia in an acute setting. In total, 17 nursing assistants took part in the training programme. Carole spoke keenly of the “positive bunch” of nursing assistants engaged in the project and revealed that plans are already underway to run the training programme again later in this year.

Sharing Practice

Representatives from a unique and large partnership of hospices – the Executive Clinical Leads in Hospice and Palliative Care (ECLiHP) – shared their experiences of a year long project to change the workforce in hospices to provide 7/7 admissions. Part of this workstream included the development of a new role, Consultant Nurse in Palliative Care. Senior leads such as Clodagh Sowton, Director of Patient Services at Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham and Karen Taylor, Director of Clinical Service, Martlets Hospice in Hove, worked closely with Skills for Health to develop the role and ensure it fits within the National Competencies Framework. Once rolled out, expanding the workforce to include this advanced nursing role as part of the medical rota would mean that more patients could be routinely admitted over the weekend and be offered more specialised and expert patient care when they most need it.



Dominic Anderson, Age UK, Cheshire East

5 minutes with...

Mark Colbourne, MBE Paralympic Gold Medallist



Skills for Health was honoured to have Paralympic Gold Medallist Mark Colbourne address delegates at the event to give his views on the importance of skills and competencies both from his personal experience of the NHS, as well as in his sporting career. Having represented Wales at international level in volleyball, Mark broke his back in 2009 when he was forced into an emergency landing whilst paragliding. Following five months of intensive physiotherapy, he began cycling through Disability Sports Wales working his way up the discipline to win his first world para-cycling title in 2012. He was selected as part of the cycling team for Great Britain at the 2012 Summer Paralympics, taking silver in the C1-3 1km time trial, followed by gold in C1 3km individual pursuit, having broken the world record.

We caught up with Mark after his talk to put some questions to the 2012 champion:

Mark, what did it mean to you to be part of the 2012 Paralympic GB team?

Like many young people who excel at sport, I always aspired to be an Olympic champion, but to be part of Paralympic GB Team at a home games was just a euphoric feeling.

Do you have any advice for young people pursuing their sporting dreams?

The first piece of advice is to have a plan – know what your goal really is and then break it down into yearly, monthly, daily and even hourly parts. In that way, you can start to get a grasp of very small marginal advantages and gains to help you achieve your dream.

Skills for Health is dedicated to training and improving the skills of the current and future healthcare workforce. What advice can you give to NHS employees from your experience?

I think it's important to remember that everyone in the NHS is employed to deliver a service; so you're actually working as a team. No one individual should be seen as a "superstar". And, as long as

everyone gives 100% then you will deliver the best service you possibly can.

In the immediate aftermath of your accident and during your rehabilitation what was your experience of the care you received from the NHS?

From day one when I arrived at the University Hospital in Cardiff, the care was exemplary. The staff were there to support me through every hour – and after such a traumatic accident which means you physically can't move for weeks, an hour can feel like a day. In that situation, you don't need people to just keep telling you that you're going to get better, because nobody actually knows the outcome. Feeling that you're in the hands of experts in their field is crucial and my physical therapist and the occupational psychiatrist were particularly supportive.

In your speech, you thanked the hospital staff for treating you with dignity – what do you mean by that?

There is nothing worse than being in a position of vulnerability and then somebody not treating you as an equal. Thankfully, I didn't feel that; I never felt patronised.

Which person in your personal or sporting life would you say is your inspirational leader?

I think one of the greatest inspirational leaders who I've worked with in sport is Sir David Beresford, Director for British Cycling and Team Sky. As a man who has revolutionised the sport of cycling and set goals very, very high from the Olympics to the Tour de France, it was a privilege to work with him.

You've just retired from paracycling, what skills would you most like to develop in the future and why?

I'm interested in developing my communication skills – so that I can use my sporting and personal experiences to inspire others. I want my message to be poignant and have purpose, so that people can actually take it away and use it in their own life. And for me, you can't buy that.