This group comprises nominated leads from each Trust and PCT in NHS South Central. Its role is to:

- inform the development and support the implementation of e-learning strategy, policy and quality standards across the NHS South Central area;
- promote and support national and SHA-wide e-learning initiatives;
- ensure a coordinated approach to the commissioning of e-learning programmes, projects and pilots across NHS South Central and
- share best practice.

The group has recently initiated a survey of e-learning authoring tools, to discover what tools are in use locally, what you like and don’t like about them, and whether we should be supporting use of a common tool and/or more sharing in this area.

The group members meet quarterly and minutes of the meetings can be found on our website. If you would like to know your Trust representative on this group, then please contact Alison Wright.

### Elements back on-stream!

The Institute of Healthcare Management’s ‘Elements’ e-learning modules are back online following the recent problems with the previous IT supplier. These modules are available to all staff in those organisations in NHS South Central that have signed up for corporate licence.

Each learner has unlimited access to 10 modules up until the end of July 2009. Each module usually takes about 2 hours in total – but you can do as little as you want whenever you want, and return to it whenever you want. More information is on [http://www.ihm.org.uk/professional-development-learning/programmes/mhsc-elements](http://www.ihm.org.uk/professional-development-learning/programmes/mhsc-elements).

There is a wide range of subjects available from appraisals to managing conflict.

To register and to gain access to these modules, please contact your local Leadership Development Lead or Training Department.
NESC’s e-learning pathfinder project

Following scoping work undertaken early 2008, NESC’s e-learning ‘pathfinder’ project is now well underway. Our aim is to evaluate the benefits and cost-effectiveness of commissioning original e-learning modules for use region-wide. Supported by the SHA Chief Pharmacists’ Group, the project will see the creation of two e-learning modules: ‘Incompatibility of Injectable Medicines’ and ‘Critical Appraisal of Clinical Trials’. The lead content authors are Simon Wills, Angela Emerson and Susan Martindale from Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust’s Medicines Information Centre, who are working in partnership with an e-learning development company called Sponge UK.

We are seeking volunteers to evaluate both modules in March 2009 - please contact Alison Wright if you are interested!

BMJ Learning for a further year!

NESC has secured access for all NHS South Central staff to be able to use the BMJ’s 300+ interactive learning modules for a further year. These modules are particularly targeted at GPs, GP trainees, hospital doctors, medical trainees, practice nurses and managers, but also well-liked by other clinical professionals wishing to keep up-to-date with bite sized chunks of learning. Free access is available to anyone in NHS South Central area with an NHS Athens account.

If you haven’t yet got an NHS Athens account, register online now. Then simply choose to login via Athens at http://learning.bmj.com

26th March
..a date for your diaries

The next NESC e-learning event

The next event will take place on 26th March 2009 at the Hilton Hotel in Newbury. This time we would like to show case more local innovation and good practice, and so we may be approaching YOU for a case study!

A reminder that presentation slides and vodcasts from NESC’s previous e-learning events, including the most recent one held on 10 October 2008, are available on the NESC website http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/e-learning_libraries/e-learning/events.aspx
**NLMS* start-up funding**

Our recent invitation to Trusts and PCTs to bid for start-up funding for NLMS implementation received a good number of submissions – unfortunately more than we could support. We have provided funding to four organisations and hope to extend the same offer to others in the new financial year.

*NLMS = National Learning Management System*

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**NLMS Key Contacts: all change**

In December, we said goodbye to Heather Penny, NLMS Account Manager for NHS South Central and NHS South West, and at the end of January will unfortunately also be bidding farewell to Josh Darling, Lead ESR Account Manager for NHS South Central.

Katie Farrell will be taking over as the Lead ESR Account Manager for NHS South Central. Advice, support and guidance for NLMS now forms part of the ESR team. [Katie.Farrell@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.Farrell@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Remember that a wealth of documentation about the NLMS, including implementation guides and pre-requisite checklists, is available on the ESR KBASE website at [http://esr.knowledgebasesolutions.com/](http://esr.knowledgebasesolutions.com/)

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**Testers needed**

The NHS Core Learning Unit (CLU) will soon be launching their new programme on Public Health Awareness for Health & Social Care. We are looking for 30 people within NHS South Central area to take part in piloting the programme prior to go live. Pilot users will need to undertake the programme (approximately 2 hours) and complete an online evaluation form. The pilot will run from 9 February for one month.

If you would like to be involved in piloting this programme please contact Alison Wright!

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**Coming soon due to popular demand: Pandemic Flu!**

In response to widespread demand, the CLU is commissioning an e-learning module for Pandemic Flu. This is expected to be available April 2009. Watch this space!
CLU programmes get an overhaul

The CLU are updating and refreshing their Fire Safety, Manual Handling, Infection Control and Health & Safety Programmes in time for April 2009.

**CLU are still seeking volunteers from acute trusts to input to the revision of the Infection Control programme. Please contact Alison Wright for more details.**

Focus on Food, Nutrition and Hydration in Health & Social Care

This new CLU programme came under the spotlight at an event jointly organised by NESC and the CLU to discuss issues and challenges relating to food, nutrition and hydration for patients and clients. You can find a short-write up of the event, and materials to help you promote the programme at:

http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/e-learning__libraries/e-learning/events.aspx

CLU programmes now available to Social Care

NESC has paid for social care staff across the NHS South Central area to have free access to the CLU programmes on infection control, catheter care, nutrition and hydration, and shortly - public health awareness. Access for social care staff is at http://care.corelearningunit.com where staff may self-register under the geographic/local authority boundary area.

NESC’s funding allows access for 6 months in the first instance (January – June 2009). We are hoping that there will be sufficient demand across the country to make a case for ongoing central funding.
Deposit your objects here

The Beta Release of the NHS E-Learning Object Repository is ready for content depositing, and anyone who has commissioned or developed e-learning programmes are urged to participate in testing. The more active interest in this project, the more likely it is to become a sustainable service going forwards.

Information about the repository, including contact details for the key staff, is available at http://www.library.nhs.uk/forlibrarians/elearning

NICE online educational tools

We recently discovered that there are 20 free e-learning programmes on clinical topics available via NICE: http://www.nice.org.uk/usingguidance/education/educational_tools.jsp

Some NICE tools to add to your collection
Stay in touch!

NESC provide a range of ways to keep you in touch with the latest e-learning news and events as we receive them.

**NESC website**

**NESC e-learning blog**

**Event podcasts** are available from Alison’s blog, via iTunes and via the NESC website.

**Mailing list** For anyone in the NHS South Central area with a role or interest in e-learning. The aim of the list is to share best practice, problems, information and ideas, and hopefully help participants to identify buddies and partnerships. It is open to NHS, education and social care staff. Please e-mail Alison Wright if you would like to subscribe to the list.