E-learning, its development in the NHS and its relationship to Public Health

NHS E-Learning

Nationally, there are three NHS e-learning groups:

1. **National E-Learning Strategic Group**
   This group is chaired by the DH Director of Workforce, Nic Greenfield, and is responsible for developing NHS e-learning strategy.

2. **National E-Learning Management Group**
   This group is chaired by Adam Wardle from Yorkshire & Humberside SHA and brings together the senior managers of e-Learning for Health, the Core Learning Unit and other key players in the delivery of national e-Learning programmes. The role of the group is to develop detailed business plans and objectives to deliver the national e-learning strategy.

3. **SHA E-Learning Leads Group**
   This group brings together those responsible for e-learning coordination in each of the SHAs in England, to translate national strategy into local practice, and to ensure that national strategy is informed by local need.

There are three national NHS e-learning providers:

**DH e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH)**
The DH e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH) programme developed from the acclaimed Radiology Integrated Training Initiative (RITI). It aims to develop a comprehensive selection of specialist postgraduate and generic multi-professional e-learning material.
http://www.e-lfh.org.uk

**NHS Core Learning Unit (CLU)**
The NHS Core Learning Unit has developed 26 e-learning programmes, mainly on statutory and mandatory topics and at NVQ/City & Guilds level (Equality and Diversity training, Disability Awareness training, Induction to the NHS, etc). Expert reference groups have been established to review and update each programme. The NHS Core Learning Unit also provides learner support for those who need it.
http://www.corelearningunit.com

**NHS Connecting for Health**
NHS Connecting for Health have produced an Essential IT Skills e-learning programme that comprises of two modules: NHS Elite and NHS Health. NHS Elite enables individuals to take a skills based assessment to demonstrate their competence using a computer at work and creates a learning plan with tutorials based on the outcome. NHS Health covers the skills and experience needed when using healthcare information systems.
http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/etd/eits/about
These e-learning providers are centrally funded and their e-learning programmes are free to NHS organizations. However, the focus has so far been on Trusts and PCTs, and in some cases access to these e-learning programmes by independently contracted health care providers and members of the wider NHS family requires clarification.

**Electronic Staff Record (ESR) and e-learning**

ESR is the workforce management solution for the NHS, and will provide NHS employees with a record of training undertaken throughout their NHS career, to ensure that skills are recognised and transferred between different healthcare employments.

The ESR functionality has recently been upgraded to enable employees to access, track and record e-learning. All the main national content providers have signed up to make their content available via ESR. This additional functionality is being piloted from June to August 2008, prior to being rolled out across the NHS. Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust are the pilot sites within NHS South Central.

**E-learning and NHS South Central**

NHS Education South Central (NESC) is responsible for coordinating the development of e-learning capacity and capability across the NHS South Central area, working closely with the Strategic Health Authority, employer organizations, education providers and other agencies.

Contacts:
Helen Bingham, Library and E-Learning Resources Manager
Helen.Bingham@nesc.nhs.uk
Alison Wright, E-learning Programme Manager
Alison.wright@nesc.nhs.uk

Website:

Reports:
E-learning Scoping Exercise for NHS South Central: results and recommendations
March 08
Best practice guidance for blended learning approaches to CPD education for NHS staff
March 08
Public Health E-learning

- A public health awareness module is being piloted by the NHS Core Learning Unit, and will be launched in the autumn 2008.

- The NHS Core Learning Unit programmes also include an Infection Control module. However, in a recent review it was found that even though this is the most popular module to be undertaken, it has been completed by only 2% of the whole SC NHS workforce.

- The Health Trainer Handbook is being considered for development as e-learning by the national Health Trainer programme lead.

Distribution: PCT PH Development Leads
John Acres, PH Specialist training programme director
Fleur Kitsell, NESC

Joanna.chapman-andrews@nesc.nhs.uk
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