

# King's Mill Hospital

King's Mill Hospital is an acute general hospital serving Ashfield, Mansfield and surrounding areas. It has approximately 600 beds and is situated adjacent to the King's Mill Reservoir, Mansfield.

West Nottinghamshire College, workplace team have been working with the hospital for some time now and provide a weekly session open to all staff members.

A workshop, which has been set up in partnership with West Nottinghamshire College, has been running each Friday for the last two years. It is designed to help staff improve their English/Maths/Communication skills, and is open to ALL staff groups irrelevant of grade or role.

The learning can also be tailored to help with areas of work, which the staff may find particularly difficult eg: understanding data/graphs, planning, writing reports, percentage calculations and form filling.

Attendance at the workshop is FREE – all West Nottinghamshire College asks is time and commitment from the staff who attend. Not only do staff have the chance to improve their English/Maths/Communication Skills but they also have the opportunity, if they wish, to take the National Test and gain a qualification in English and/or maths equivalent to G.C.S.E. level.

The tests, which are currently paper-based, last between one and one-and-a-quarter hours and consist of 40 multiple-choice questions worth one mark each, similar to those used in the driving theory test. The tests are available at two levels and are designed to measure skills at an equivalent level to other national qualifications:

- Level 1 is equivalent to G.C.S.E. D - G grade
- Level 2 equivalent to A\* - C grade.

All tests take place at the King's Mill Hospital site.

Ward Receptionists are working towards the NVQ Level 2 award in Business Administration. The learners had not undertaken an NVQ before and decided to attend the workshop to improve their writing skills. Not only did the learners feel more confident about putting pen to paper, they have also recently taken the plunge and sat the National Test in Adult Literacy. This is what they say about the workshop:

"We come to the workshop because we enjoy it; the tutor is really friendly and approachable and we feel as though we're actually achieving something."

## **“Learner of Excellence” – An Inspiration to us All**

Pauline Kerr, a Health Care Assistant on Lindhurst Ward, Mansfield Community Hospital, left school with no formal qualifications. Pauline heard about the workshop at the NVQ Induction Day earlier this year and although she originally joined the group at Kingsmill Hospital to improve her writing skills, Pauline was ‘gently persuaded’ by the tutor to tackle maths, a subject which she found very difficult. Pauline has attended the workshop in her own time, and having passed the National Test Level 1 in numeracy in September 2004, has decided to continue and work towards Level 2. Since completing her NVQ Level 3 in Care in September 2004, she has enrolled on a ‘Back to Learning’ Open University course. Her commitment and progress is an inspiration to us all.

Pat Ward, West Notts College tutor, says: Pauline has given much private and personal commitment to the group; she is a great support and motivator to others attending and was recently nominated by West Notts College as a “Learner of Excellence”. Pauline was lucky enough to be one of the three finalists in the “Skills for Life” category and attended a formal ceremony at the Civic Centre to receive her certificate of achievement.

Pauline would like to thank Pat, for her help and her colleagues on Lindhurst Ward for their continued support and flexibility, which has allowed Pauline the opportunity to attend the workshop.



**Pauline Kerr, Care Assistant with Debbie Brown, Project Manager Workplace Learning and Pat Ward, Tutor from West Nottinghamshire College**