

Lesley's in the driving seat

There's no such thing as an ordinary day in the life of a hospital learning representative, says Lesley McClean



"A typical day in my life as a learning representative, if there is such a thing, will usually begin with me opening and dealing with any post and acting on it. I also check my email and respond. This may consist of contacts from either the local college, or from members of staff requesting information about college courses, ILAs, etc.

I have 20 colleagues who have enrolled at the local college for European computer driving licences as a distance learning option, with weekly on-site support from the local college tutor.

As I have just completed this course myself, I also get a lot of contact from colleagues asking for advice if they are having a problem or just 'phoning for a general chat about something they are not sure of. This is a part of my role that I enjoy as I really feel as if I am helping others with their learning.

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I might go into a department to speak to staff about the latest learning opportunities the local college are offering. As I work closely with the local college and I have formed a good working relationship with the tutors there, I was recently offered some free NVQs for the trust staff. We held an on-site enrolment event. Tutors from Furness College came to the hospital and were available to advise staff on the most appropriate NVQ course for them. This resulted in 118 enrolments for NVQs. This was a really good opportunity to see how the college and the project can work together for the benefit of our trust colleagues and both the college staff and ourselves were delighted with the results.

I hope to continue in my role. I have had an enjoyable year in my secondment. I feel I have achieved a lot both individually in terms of personal development and also for the benefit of my student colleagues. I think if I have helped

even one person to change their minds about lifelong learning then I will have achieved my initial objectives."

Lesley is a medical secretary at Furness General Hospital currently on secondment to the Lifelong Learning Project at Morecambe Bay Hospital NHS Trust as a learning representative.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

NVQ, ILA, ECDL...

NVQ National Vocational Qualification, which proves you can do a job competently

ILA Individual Learning Account: government scheme to encourage people to plan for and invest in their own learning

ECDL: European Computer Driving Licence, international certificate.