



North East Neurosciences Network



Workforce Innovations Programme

The Neurosciences Regional Network, established in March 2008, identified local and regional gaps in Neurology /Neuroscience services through local and regional audits.

The services are traditionally delivered by very few specialists, mainly operating from tertiary centres, with some ad hoc outreach services in a few areas. The tertiary centres cover services into Cumbria and North Yorkshire, due to the pathways for access to neurosciences, thus stretching their roles and capacity even further.

Many of the developments of new specialist nurse and AHP roles are initially funded by the 'voluntary organisations associated with neurology' i.e. MS society, Parkinsons disease society, Epilepsy Action, but these developments have been historically ad hoc and unplanned with PCTs (who have to pick up the funding for posts after 2 years).

The aim of this workforce development plan is to innovatively build capacity within the specialist workforce over a minimum of 2 years, in order to cascade knowledge and skills and support to other staff, particularly in the community and into integrated health and social care systems. At the same time these specialists need support to develop confidence and community working skills and behaviours appropriate for community working. The programme will run from **2009 – March 2011**.

This initiative will deliver:

- **10 Mentors** with a broader perspective than that of their current roles.
- **20 Specialist Mentees** (10 new posts, 10 existing aspiring specialists) with a community orientation to their service delivery
- **Evidence base** of knowledge, skills and application into practice for the Region that would form the basis of requirements for future recruitment across the Region and potential roll out across the country.
- **Local Neuro forums** established in each PCO area.

Update: November 2009

- **Mentors have been recruited and we are currently recruiting Mentees.**
- **York St John University has been recruited to carry out the Action Research aspect of the programme.**
- **Darley Consulting in association with NLG partners have been commissioned to deliver the Mentorship and Action Learning modules to the Mentors and Mentees.**
- **An initial working day has been set for 1st December 2009 where the mentors, mentees and key people involved in the programme will meet.**

For more information on the programme, please contact:

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Or visit www.na-na.org.uk/neurosciencesnetwork