



Viv Evans (second from right) and Clare Carroll (fifth from right) receiving their award.

Promoting good practice in bereavement care

The Child Bereavement Trust have appointed two new facilitators who will be running the ‘Supporting Parents through Pregnancy Loss and Death of a Baby’ workshops, programmed for Manchester. Viv Evans and Clare Carroll are clinically based NICU sisters at the tertiary referral unit at St Mary’s Hospital, Manchester, and members of the Bereavement Support Team. They are also involved in staff education and promoting good practice in bereavement care around the region.

In 2004 the bereavement team won a Child Bereavement Trust 10th Anniversary ‘Pathways to Excellence’ award for their practice in bereavement care. The awards were supported by the Department of Health.

The next workshop will be held in Manchester on April 27th and a further workshop is scheduled for the autumn.

Information about CBT workshops:
www.childbereavement.org.uk, email
anne.williams@childbereavement.org.uk

Learning how to deal with death

Nurses, paramedics and care home staff from across the country are to be offered training from coroners, police officials and undertakers to help deal with one of the most harrowing aspects of their job – dealing with death.

The University of Derby is offering a short course entitled ‘Verification of expected death’ which consists of a theory day followed by a session to test ability with Objective Structured Clinical Examinations, testing students’ clinical and communication skills.

The course is designed to support front-line medical staff to understand the procedures related to handling such a sensitive area of work.

The next dates are March 20th and June 12th with courses held at the University’s Kedleston Road Campus, Derby.

Course participants will learn about

communication skills, support available for professionals, verification of death theory and practical, the roles of the coroner and the undertaker, what police need to know and what to do with a potential crime scene.

Carol Vaughan, University of Derby,
 email: c.vaughan@derby.ac.uk

Giving every baby a healthy start

A new government scheme to encourage pregnant women and families from low-income groups to eat a more nutritious diet was launched in November 2006. Healthy Start, which replaces the old Welfare Food Scheme, provides pregnant women and families from disadvantaged groups with weekly vouchers for milk and infant formula, and also now, for fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as free vitamin supplements.

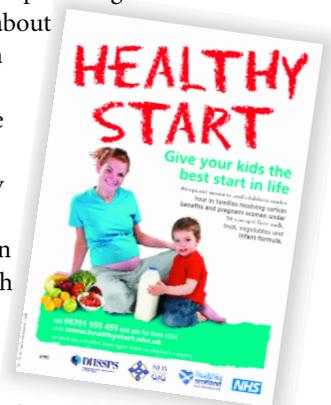
Healthy Start aims to provide more opportunities for midwives, nurses, GPs and health visitors to give support to women and families for healthy eating, breastfeeding and parenting.

Information about the scheme with downloadable resources can be found on the website. Healthy Start is open to pregnant women and families with children under the age of four who are on:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance or
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) with an income below £14,155 a year
- All pregnant women under the age of 18 qualify, on benefits or not.

Pregnant women and children aged between one and four will receive one voucher a week worth £2.80, for each child/pregnancy. Babies under one year will receive two vouchers, worth a total of £5.60. Babies born before their estimated date of delivery (EDD) will receive two vouchers until one year after their EDD.

www.healthystart.nhs.uk



Education scholarship announced

The Dräger Medical Neonatal Nurse/ Midwife Educational Scholarship is intended to help neonatal nurses and midwives develop and share individual knowledge through personal education, travel, experience and/or practice.

A first prize of £2,000 will enable funding for neonatal educationally-related activities, including study course fees, area of interest, practice development, conference fees and travel. Applicants should be practising neonatal nurses/midwives registered with NMC and delivering neonatal care within the UK.

For information and an electronic application form, contact: Bernadette Henderson, email: bernadette.henderson@nna.org.uk or visit: www.nna.org.uk

Completed application forms must be received by 3 September, 2007.

Community nurses have their say

The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) has launched an e-Forum on community nursing which provides the opportunity for community nurses, managers and educators to inform the QNI about specific issues relating to national vision and strategy for community nursing.

The e-Forum enables community nurses to register and contribute by email to debates on key community nursing topics. Topics are added regularly and the first topic for discussion was "the added value of the specialist practitioner course".

The e-Forum will ensure that the expertise of community nurses forms an integral part of national decision-making on relevant policy.

The QNI has also reinstated the title of "Queen's Nurse". This title has always been an indicator of a qualified community nurse who is committed to high standards of practice.

One of the objectives of the QNI is to support innovation and best practice in primary care to improve care for patients. One way to achieve this is to link together community nurses possessing a high standard of practice with a shared title. The title is awarded to individual nurses who demonstrate a high level of commitment to patient-centred values and continually improving practice.

QNI e-Forum: www.qni.org.uk/eforum.htm



Jag Ahluwalia and Wilf Kelsall pictured during their assault on Mount Kilimanjaro. The trek helped raise funds for an educational bursary for non-medical BAPM members.

New version of the Green Book is available

The 2006 edition of 'Immunisation against infectious disease' presents the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures for all the vaccine-preventable infectious diseases that may occur in the UK. In particular it deals with those immunisations that comprise the routine immunisation programme for all children from birth to adolescence.

All health professionals that give immunisations or provide information and advice on them will find that this edition of the Green Book has been fully updated and gives a comprehensive source of current information.

A hard copy of the Green Book is currently being distributed to immunisation health professionals. All the individual chapters are also available to download from the DH website.

www.dh.gov.uk



Photo courtesy of Newham Hospital.

Stephen Timms, Labour MP for East Ham, visited the staff of the Newham General Hospital neonatal unit. The visit, organised by BLISS, aimed to raise awareness of the provision of care available for premature and sick newborns nationally and the issues their parents face.

BLISS campaigners receive support from MPs

A group of parents and other BLISS supporters have persuaded over 100 MPs to sign a petition to call for a debate in parliament about the critical shortage of resources for sick and premature babies.

Campaigners are taking part in an ongoing initiative called Action for BLISS, enabling people to engage directly with policy makers by writing to their MPs to express their concerns and urge them to sign an Early Day Motion. The number of people taking part in the campaign is rising daily and in many cases MPs are writing back to express their support and concern about the crucial issue of neonatal care.

In a meeting organised by BLISS, six parents met health minister Ivan Lewis at Whitehall to talk about neonatal care in the UK. Mr Lewis invited the parents to talk about their own experiences of having premature babies and to express their concerns about the level of care available in neonatal units across the UK.

www.bliss.org.uk, email: actionforbliss@bliss.org.uk