



SESSION

Wednesday

A 11.00 am and A 1.00 pm

Neil Roberts

Neil Roberts: Neil trained as an Adult Nurse at Leeds General Infirmary, qualifying in 1993. He has had a wide experience in care of the older adult and rehabilitation. He has had an interest in Manual Handling since 1996, taking up the position of Manual Handling Advisor at Dewsbury Hospital in 1999 and is now part of the Occupational Health Team working at the Midyorks NHS Trust Hospitals. Neil has successfully completed his post grad diploma in back care management and hopes to finish his Masters this year.

Being based in the Occupational Health department has given Neil a broad base from which to approach Manual Handling as it is the hub of numerous services to staff aimed at promoting their health and supporting them in ill health.

Neil is an active member of the Yorkshire back exchange and has recently set up and chaired a special interest group looking at current political issues and how these issues may impact on our field.

The Black Report – what is our future?

Manual Handling – Extinction Looms?

Dame Carol Black's report, *Working for a Healthier Tomorrow* (2008) was commissioned to look at the health of the working population. Ill health costs affect not only the economy but have consequences for families and communities. The report recommends ways of solving "the human, social and economic costs of impaired health and well-being in relation to working life in Britain. The aim of the Review is not to offer a utopian solution for improved health in working life. It is to identify the factors that stand in the way of good health and to elicit interventions, including changes in attitudes, behaviours and practices – as well as services – that can help overcome them."

The Yorkshire Back Exchange (YBE) at their last meeting discussed the report and its possible implications to our field. The main health issues raised in the report which need to be addressed are MSD's and Mental Health.

That the majority of the working population do not have access to Occupational Health (OH) for example, employees not working in the NHS and industry. The report wishes to extend this access to the whole working population and those not in work, e.g. on incapacity benefit through NHS OH services. It is envisaged that NHS OH services will expand dramatically in order to fill this need. The Occupational Health Clinical Effectiveness Unit has been set up to build evidence to support for the field. The RCN is developing training courses for OH nurses in how to meet these challenges.

In order to address these issues the report calls for a change in culture, "wellness" as opposed to sickness. The role of GP's will change, so for example, this year sick notes are being changed to well notes. Information given on what an individual can do and not what they can't do will be recorded in order to assist for them to return to work.

Until recently only a few members of YBE had heard of the report. It was agreed that there is an opportunity for NBE and its members to be involved in this process and direct its implementation. If not, there was general agreement of YBE members felt they may experience difficulty in justifying their role in terms of value for money to their organization and may be overlooked OH services, and community services expand. These changes would ultimately affect all NBE members if Occupational Health Services were free at the point of delivery to all those that are employed.

YBE would like to urge all NBE members to become familiar with this report in order that they are aware of its implications.

The full report can be found at <http://www.workingforhealth.gov.uk/Carol-Blacks-Review/>

Aim

The aim of the presentation is to:

- Present an outline of the report, Working for a Healthier Tomorrow (2008)
- To facilitate a discussion on possible implications specifically to the field of Manual Handling
- To stimulate group debate in order to assess members' knowledge on the topic and consider mutual concerns
- To collect the information in order to direct where individuals and NBE go from here.

Reference:

Black, C. (2008). Working for a Healthier Tomorrow. Crown Copyright