Learn from East Sussex County Council

A career pathway – elderly persons journey through services

Background

East Sussex has an Employment and Skills Strategy Board called Skills East Sussex, which brings together businesses, training providers, schools and colleges, stakeholders and representatives of local government to identify and tackle the skills gaps and needs of the county. The Skills East Sussex board seeks to address the individual needs of the county's key priority sectors through sector specific task groups, including one focused on the needs of Health and Social Care.

What has been achieved so far

In March 2018, Skills East Sussex brought together relevant stakeholders to look at the issues facing the health and adult social care sector. This meeting included representatives from industry, HEE, NHS England, Care Homes, local employers, and all were invited to give feedback and shape and address the skills needs of the sector.

There were three areas for task group activity that emerged strongly from the initial Health and Social Care meeting in Eastbourne.

- Promoting careers opportunities and pathways in to the sector: A joined up approach
- Animated infographics & talking heads infographics
- New technologies

Smaller working parties have now been set up to look at these three key areas of work

What are the next steps?

Promoting careers opportunities in the sector and pathways into them: A joined up approach.

The primary task identified by the working group was the development of an animated infographic to promote careers in health and adult social care roles. The idea was for a prototype to be developed which could be replicated for different roles and needs. A group has been formed with representatives from the University of Chichester, the NHS, East Sussex County Council and Health Education England, which looks at the details of the content of an animated infographic which, for the first of the series, shows an elderly patient's journey into and through hospital, and into care or home support.

Animated infographics & talking heads infographics

The Task and Finish (T&F) Group recognised the importance of having an animation for young people to see about the pathway that a patient goes on and the different job roles which come into it, the skills and training needed, looking at which health professionals you come into contact with if you are an elderly person accessing the range of services. It's a useful way of signposting students and adults into the sector and career progression. The T&F Group wanted to make sure this had a strong social care aspect, as other such careers products tend to focus only on the hospital element of a patient journey, not on the role that ASC plays and the careers offered in the non-medical part of the sector.

Work is now underway to develop this animated infographic which will look at an elderly person's journey through services showing the roles within adult social care that will interact and impact on that older person's journey. The aim is to do further work with potentially up to 6 more animated videos.

New Technologies

At the March meeting, there was a lot of discussion about use of new technologies in the Health and Social Care and the need for training around this (for professionals and end users). Plumpton College have looked at using virtual reality to simulate a safety scenario for teaching. Virtual Reality could be an area that the care sector embraces for training purposes as development happens. There is a 'technology enhanced care' organisation in London which focuses on technological issues in Health and Social Care. In particular they are exploring technical workforce issues in health and social care. The South East Coast Ambulance Service are also doing some work around digital skills awareness. Further work will be done to look at this area of work

For more information please see below:

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