

2009 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – JACQUI RAMUS

This year we have seen some considerable gains and achievements for members which include:

National representation:

- the strengthening of the Midlands region, and the re-establishment of the North West region
- ACTAN have also been requested to take up a seat on the National Skills Academy's for Social Care's Endorsement Board which is overseeing the development of a national endorsement of trainers/training organisations and training resources for and within health and social care
- ACTAN members are likely to play a key role in the Training Excellence standard, being piloted by the National Skills Academy for Social Care
- ACTAN now attend regular meetings with national representatives of ALP, AOC, LSC and Skills for Health
- An exec member who is specifically tasked with engaging with the CWDC

We have contributed to several key reports this year:

- Department of Health's research
- the Department of Health's Prepared to Care report which reported on training in dementia care
- the sector skills agreement with Skills for Care "developing tomorrow's workforce today" has been officially launched www.skillsforcare.org.uk/workforce_strategy/S_S_A/SSA.aspx and ACTAN are cited as a key player within the document
- The National Audit Office's online forum on Dementia

We have partnered with Skills for Care in the regions in order to:

- Deliver assessor training (London and South East Region)
- Partner in the ESF Ageless@Work project (South West Region)

We are currently redesigning the website to make it more user friendly and allow members to download pdf's and PowerPoint presentations. This should be available around the time of conference.

In addition to the above ACTAN continues to have a presence through

- Skills for Care Regional Committees
- Skills for Care Sector Qualification, Education and Training Sub Committee
- Skills for Care Board
- Active regional meetings

We continue to raise and debate issues of funding, quality, consistency and relevancy of training and qualifications in the health and social care sector on members' behalf. While we continue to be one of the best represented organisations of our kind, membership over the past few years has seen a loss of some longstanding members. This is largely due to the closure of many NVQ assessment centres, and the demise of some private sector training organisations.

Membership is key to our survival. Without the money secured from membership, would be unable to continue to represent your voice on the national committees identified. Therefore, I urge you to continue to support ACTAN through your continued membership, and also by encouraging others to join.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the Executive Committee members who help ACTAN achieve what it does. All Exec members are unpaid, and achieve what they do due to a commitment to maintain and improve training, development and workplace assessment in the Health and Social Care sectors, and for those staff working in childcare and early years sectors. This can only be achieved through the support of employer organisations, or by sacrificing paid work if they are self employed.

I would also like to thank Elspeth and Wendy from the SCA who provide ACTAN with administrative support, and Frances Goldfinch who has once again administered conference.

Wishing you all a prosperous and successful 2010.

Jacqui Ramus
ACTAN Chair

16 November 2009