

Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training

Aims:

- **To develop and secure the place that Stop Smoking Services have within the NHS**
- **To contribute towards the professional development and identity of NHS Smoking Cessation Specialists**

The NHS Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) has been contracted by the Department of Health to:

- identify the competences required to deliver, manage and commission smoking cessation interventions in England
- develop and implement methods of assessment to establish current levels of competence amongst stop smoking specialists, managers and commissioners
- commission and provide training and continuing support to allow staff to achieve the required level of competence
- develop a system for certification of stop smoking specialists and accreditation of training courses
- advise the Department of Health on issues relating to the Stop Smoking Services
- undertake research to support these aims

To achieve these aims the NCSCT will:

- consult widely with key stakeholders, including Stop Smoking Service specialists, managers and commissioners, the Department of Health policy team, Regional Tobacco Policy Managers, Regional Development Managers, the Department of Health National Support Team, NICE and existing training providers to ensure that the Centre meets their needs and does not undermine or conflict with existing best practice
- establish a number of forums for regular two-way communication with all interested parties, including with individual stop smoking specialists to support their activities and receive feedback on the operation of the Centre

The approach adopted will involve:

- keeping 'red tape' to an absolute minimum
- using the most efficient and effective methods of assessment, teaching and learning that are available
- building on existing achievements rather than 're-inventing the wheel'
- distinguishing between competences that are essential from those that may be regarded as desirable
- prioritising areas in most need of help to boost standards of care
- working from and developing the best available evidence
- harnessing the huge capacity and enthusiasm of the Stop Smoking Services to identify and disseminate best practice

During 2009/10 the NCSCT will: engage with key stakeholders, carry out a needs assessment, define competences, develop a training standard, and pilot the training and evaluation. Training courses for NHS Smoking Cessation Specialists will be run from 2010 through to 2012.

NCSCT Director: Andy McEwen: andy.mcewen@ncsct.co.uk

NCSCT Chief Executive: Nicky Willis: nicky.willis@ncsct.co.uk

For more information go to the NCSCT website: www.ncsct.co.uk