Acquired Brain Injury Awareness: e-learning training course

This e-learning course, Acquired Brain Injury Awareness, has been developed in association with the British Institute of Disabilities (BILD) and Voyage Care. It is broken down into four easy-to-follow units - an introduction and three study units. The aim of the course is to raise awareness of acquired brain injuries (ABIs) - what they are, possible causes and the impact they can have on people, their families and friends. By gaining a better understanding of the implications of ABIs, learners will be able to provide more effective support to the people in their care.

Unit Titles
1. How to Use the Course
2. An introduction to the brain and acquired brain injury
3. The effects of acquired brain injuries
4. Providing support
Unit 2: describes the six main areas of the brain and explores the functions of each one. Learners will find out what is meant by acquired brain injuries (ABIs) and some of the possible causes. This unit concludes by looking at how an acquired brain injury can affect people, depending on which part of the brain has suffered damage.

Unit 3: examines the ways in which an acquired brain injury can impact on a person’s life, and on their families and friends. The unit looks at the effects under five category headings:

- loss or bereavement
- cognitive
- communication
- emotional and behavioural
- physical.

This unit provides information about the wide range of difficulties that might arise, depending on the severity of the damage to the brain and the location of the injury.

Unit 4: this unit helps learners to put the right support and rehabilitation in place for someone with an ABI, in order to meet their specific needs. Learners look at techniques for managing a person’s challenging behaviour and for helping them to cope with everyday tasks. Information is provided about the different roles that therapists can play in a person's rehabilitation. The unit concludes by presenting a short case study to learners, followed by some questions for them to answer.

Learning Objectives: on completion of this course learners will be able to:

- name the six main areas of the brain
- briefly describe the function of each area of the brain
- define acquired brain injury and identify possible causes
- explain the possible effects of injuries to different parts of the brain
- list the five categories into which the effects of acquired brain injuries (ABIs) fall
- explain why people experience a feeling of loss or bereavement
- describe the kinds of problems that can arise in relation to cognitive and communication skills
- understand how a person’s behaviour and emotional state may change
- identify the physical impact an acquired brain injury can have
- identify the areas of a person’s life that might change as a result of an ABI
- understand the importance of effective planning when supporting someone
- explain what is meant by rehabilitation and what it involves
- list some of the possible barriers to rehabilitation
• describe some of the ways to help people cope with everyday tasks
• identify the role that therapists play in a person’s support network.