

Skem IT firm scoops big NHS contract

A SKELMERSDALE IT software company has secured an NHS contract with a social services department in Wolverhampton.

CareNotes, designed by Strand Technology of Skelmersdale, specifically for the NHS Mental Health Trusts, has been adopted for the first time by the Wolverhampton department.

The company has taken the lead in introducing the software across the two disciplines to provide a seamless care path for clients and managers in the area.

The criticism most commonly made in the tragic cases seen recently in the courts, is that the social care groups do not talk to each other, and the level of communications between the services is poor.

This became evident in the case of Victoria Climbié and in numerous other reports on the children and adults who disappear into limbo until tragedy overcomes them.

In Wolverhampton, CareNotes is being used to link Social Services and the Mental Health Trust, so that care programmes and treatment

plans for clients are accessible to professionals in both disciplines.

CareNotes successfully integrates the two different systems and provides a seamless care path for both agencies.

The package was produced by Social Services and is linked with the MHT.

CPA (Care Plan Assessments) are all answered in CareNotes and passed to the Swift Social Services Systems, this also enables them to produce reports for the department of health.

Clients can be contacted via e-mail and SMS text messaging, regarding treatment dates and medication, with reminders about clinical appointments and meetings with social workers.

One of the strengths of the CareNotes programme is the confidentiality, client details are only accessible to social work and healthcare professionals.

The CareNotes programme has been developed by Strand Technology in conjunction with over 100 clinicians and has been adopted by 11 NHS Mental Health Trusts nationwide.

This is a complex and difficult area of health care with considerable impact on the Community-CareNotes is leading the way to joined-up healthcare management across the sector.