



Apply now for your Athens password to social care resources

From 1 November 2008 you are eligible to apply for an Athens password. This will allow you to access the NHS national core content collection, which contains a wide range of e-journals and databases, free of charge through SCIE's Social Care Online website.

In the past, these journals and databases have only been available to people working in the NHS. However, the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and Skills for Care have successfully argued that those working in government-funded social care organisations should be given equality of access. The resources that are currently available are primarily health focused, but there are already several social care related resources and SCIE will be adding a number of key social care e-journals.



SCIE has taken on the password and account administration of the Athens scheme and is currently running pilots in five areas of the country – the South East, the West Midlands, East of England and the North West. Fourteen London boroughs are also participating. Volunteers from local authority social service departments are acting as regional and local password administrators for social care staff within each area. In the London boroughs, NHS librarians have kindly agreed to extend their password administration to registered social workers in their boroughs. A member of SCIE's staff is also acting as a national administrator.

The pilot will last for ten months and if it is successful and demand is high it is hoped that the scheme can be extended to the rest of the country, as long as local authorities within the additional areas are willing to put forward personnel who can take on regional or local password administration.

To find out more, visit Social Care Online:
www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk

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Registered charity no. 1092778
Company registration no. 4289790