

## Parkinson's Awareness

Parkinson's is a progressive and fluctuating neurological condition affecting movements such as walking, swallowing and writing. It occurs when cells are lost from the part of the brain that controls movement. These lost cells are those that produce dopamine, a chemical that enables us to produce smooth, coordinated movements by transmitting messages between nerve cells and muscles. When 80% of the dopamine has been lost the symptoms of Parkinson's appear.

This Parkinson's awareness course highlights the causes, symptoms and forms of Parkinsonism which is an umbrella term that describes conditions with symptoms of tremor, rigidity and slowness of movement and includes MSA (Multiple System Atrophy) and PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy).

This half day course covers the following:

- What is Parkinson's disease and what causes it?
- How is Parkinson's diagnosed?
- How does the condition progress?
- The symptoms, which are tremors, Muscular rigidity and slowness of movement
- How many people have Parkinson's and at what age do they get it?
- Is there a cure? What treatment is available?
- Is it infectious? Can it be inherited?

**Training Methods:** Lectures, case studies and group discussions.

**Assessment** is through observation and a written test paper which is marked by the Tutor and then verified by an assessor, for Quality Assurance purposes. To gain a certificate a course mark in excess of 80% is required. On successful completion of the course, students will receive a Certificate which will remain valid for one year from date of issue. Employers will receive all necessary paperwork to provide an auditable paper trail

