



Your NHS. Your Social Care. Your LINK



# COVENTRY LINK NEWSLETTER

*Issue 15: October 2011*

Welcome to the latest LINK members' newsletter – keeping you up to date with LINK work and developments in health and social care

## LINK NEWS

### New LINK work programme set:

After considering the ideas and suggestions for LINK's work and gathering feedback from UHCW and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, the LINK Steering Group has set the following programme of work to March 2011.

<b>New projects</b>
Hospital car parking: to review the impact of recent changes
The services provided by the Opal Disability Equipment Centre
Care planning for mental health patients: to investigate patient involvement
UHCW outpatient booking: introduction of airport style outpatient booking (Gateway)
To follow developments in work by UHCW to address issues with the pathway for cancer patients treated by the A&E Department

### LINK is also continuing work on:

- a) Barriers for Black and Minority Ethnic communities in accessing cancer services (joint work with Arden Cancer Network).
- b) Access to quality information about services and choice by social care users and carers.
- c) Safeguarding processes.
- d) The development of HealthWatch.
- e) Changes to the NHS.

### Could you help with work programme?

**We are recruiting people to volunteer on our Hospital Services Working Group and Mental Health Services Working Group to carry out LINK's new projects.**

Could you spare some time?

We also have an Adult Social Care Working Group and Barriers to Cancer Screening Working Group

Express an interest using the **enclosed form**  
Or

Come to our next **Snapshot Session** to find out more about volunteering in LINK

On: 25<sup>th</sup> October at 3.00 pm

At: Voluntary Action Coventry, Hay Lane

To book a place phone 024 7622 0381

## LOCAL NEWS

### **New CAMHS website launched**

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust has launched a brand new website for young people who need their services.

The new Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) website offers information on all areas of the service, including an area called Moodleton, an online world created especially for the under 11s. There's also content designed for young people aged 11-18, professionals and parents and carers. The launch took place at the school where much of the consultation with young people took place to help create the site.

### **Chair of Arden Cluster**

Arden Cluster (made up of NHS Coventry and NHS Warwickshire) is in the process of combining its two boards together and Alison Gingell, Chair of NHS Coventry is likely to take on the role of Chair for the Arden Cluster, following the resignation of the NHS Warwickshire Chair.

### **Stripping It Bare!**

CSV (Community Service Volunteers) are delighted to have been awarded three-year funding from the Department of Health to carry out an awareness raising project called 'Stripping it Bare'. The aim is to improve public health through volunteers spreading health messages to break down some of the taboos about health: such as prostate and bowel cancer, dementia, sexual health in the over 50's, mental health and depression, as well as the health needs of older people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

We are looking to recruit two levels of volunteers: Health Champions who will drive the initiative and Community Health Messengers who will help reach further into communities raising awareness on how to empower people to deal with taboo health topics. Volunteers will receive training that will enable them to deliver relevant messages effectively.

Whether you are already part of CSV, a local health body, a community group or interested in being part of the project by volunteering, please contact

[maggie.smith@bbc.co.uk](mailto:maggie.smith@bbc.co.uk) 0121 567 6016

### **Health Information Centre to open longer**

From October the Health Information Centre in the main entrance area of University Hospital Coventry is opening until 7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Centre provides reliable, comprehensive information on conditions, treatments, and procedures for members of the public.

It also provides details about other health services such as GPs and dentists, healthy lifestyles, current health issues, travel insurance for those with long-term conditions, local and national support groups and much more.

The service is free and confidential and staffed by information professional. It opens at 9.00 am and closes at 5.00 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

For more information contact Lyn Wilson  
Tel 024 7696 6051 Email:

[health.information@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:health.information@uhcw.nhs.uk)

## **NHS Coventry – public, patient and carer event**

LINK is working with NHS Coventry on this event, which focuses on how HealthWatch can provide information to help people make choices about their care and how Patient & Public Engagement can help to shape services in the future.

Date: Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Time: 11.00am – 2.00pm (registration and coffee from 10.30am)

Venue: The Welcome Centre, Parkside, Coventry, CV1 2HG

To book a place telephone **Wilma Bristow** on tel. **024 7624 6099** or email

[wilma.bristow@coventrypct.nhs.uk](mailto:wilma.bristow@coventrypct.nhs.uk)

There is a limit of 100 places available

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Health and Social Care Bill update**

The Health and Social Care Bill is now in the House of Lords where it is awaiting its second reading. The date for the second reading has been set for the 11th October. This will be the first substantive debate on the Bill since it went to the House of Lords.

### **Adult social care engagement exercise launched**

The Government has launched 'Caring for our future: shared ambitions for care and support' – an engagement exercise with people who use care and support services, carers, local councils, care providers and the voluntary sector about the priorities for improving care and support. The discussion will inform a government White Paper on social care reform and a progress report on funding reform that will be published in spring 2012. For more information visit: <http://caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk/>

### **NHS statistics**

Department of Health figures show:

1. Less patients in mixed sex accommodation: with a fall from 1,993 in June to 1,126 in July. In December 2010 the number of instances was 11,802. The Department of Health announced in December 2010 that it would be fining hospitals £250 for every instance of a patient staying on a mixed sex ward from April 2011.
2. More people waiting for treatment for more than 6 months with a 61% increase from 7,360 in June 2010 to 11,857 in June this year. 1 in 3 Primary Care Trusts in England are failing to hit the target of 90% of patients being treated within 18 weeks.
3. Rates of two hospital acquired infections, MRSA and C. difficile, are at their lowest rate since mandatory records starting being kept 10 years ago. Rates for

MRSA infection dropped below 100 a month to 94 for the first time and the rate for C. difficile continued its downward trend

### **Access to scans and tests**

The Patient's Association has raised concerns that Primary Care Trusts are looking at ways to reduce the numbers of patients GPs send for extra investigations. They surveyed 116 PCTs and 28% said they had either started looking into how many referrals GPs carried out across their area, or were planning to do so. Nine Trusts said they had found surgeries that either sent too many or too few patients for tests while two are considering introducing upper and lower targets. Five PCTs have scrapped direct access altogether to at least one type of test.

### **Office of Fair Trading to investigate dentists**

The consumer watchdog, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), has announced that it will be reviewing dentists after concerns were raised about the information provided about treatments and the choices offered to patients.

Under the current dental contract, agreed in 2006, NHS dentists are paid a flat rate regardless of how much work they perform on a patient's teeth. This was introduced to combat the "drill and fill culture" which arose from dentists being paid for the number of procedures carried out. The concern has been that some dentists have manipulated the system, encouraging patients to go for private treatment when they could get the same treatment much cheaper under one of the three NHS tariffs.

**Join us to talk about the priorities for better health and wellbeing in Coventry at our event on 16 November**

**See the enclosed flier and booking form**

## Doctors new to NHS

Following a report from the doctors' regulator, the General Medical Council (GMC), the Government has announced that all doctors who want to practise in the NHS in England will have to prove they can speak good English before they are allowed to work in the UK. They will have to be registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) before applying for medical posts.

The Department of Health will give the GMC explicit new powers to be able to take action against doctors when there are concerns about their ability to speak English. They will also introduce new powers so doctors can be vetted for their language skills at local level.

The GMC's report also found that some doctors are starting medical practice with little or no training on working in the UK while some locum doctors were undertaking duties which were inappropriate. They have concluded that doctors starting to work in the UK, whether newly qualified or coming from abroad, need better support in order to practise safely and propose an induction programme for doctors. This would cover how medicine is practised in the UK. Find out more at: [www.gmc-uk.org/publications/10471.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/publications/10471.asp)

## Maternity services

Concerns about maternity services have been in the news again. Following a report showing that there has been an increase of 22% in the number of births in the last 20 years the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) has warned that the lack of midwives in England may put lives at risk.

The RCM estimates that one midwife is needed for every 28 hospital births and 35 births in a midwife-led unit or at home. They are calling for the Government to recruit 4,700 more midwives across England. It has also revealed that there are wide variations in how many midwives there were with a shortage of around 10% in the North West of England but shortages of 41% in the East of England.

## Health Select Committee report criticizes Care Quality Commission

The Health Select Committee has criticised the care regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) saying that it has neglected its core function of inspecting hospitals and care homes. The Committee said that inspection activity had dropped by 70% as resources were being used for other work, in particular the registration of dentists which had a statutory deadline of April 2011.

The committee concluded that the CQC was set up with unclear and unrealistic targets, objectives and timescales.

## State of care report

The Care Quality Commission has published its Annual Report covering April 2010 to March 2011 on the state of health and adult social care in England. The report looks at outcomes for people and takes a broad view across the public, private and voluntary sector services. Find out more at: [www.cqc.org.uk/stateofcare2010-11.cfm](http://www.cqc.org.uk/stateofcare2010-11.cfm)

## NHS IT system to be scrapped

The Department of Health and the Cabinet Office have announced that they will scrap the £12.7 billion National Programme for IT, set up in 2002 to create a new patient record system. Earlier this year it was criticised by the Public Accounts Committee in the House of Commons who said that the project was mismanaged and criticised the Department of Health for failing to negotiate contracts which would be good value for money.

### Contact Us

The Coventry LINK staff team is hosted by  
Voluntary Action Coventry



and can be contacted by calling 024 7622 0381  
and the Team email of:

[coventrylink@vac Coventry.org.uk](mailto:coventrylink@vac Coventry.org.uk)