

COVENTRY LINK NEWSLETTER



**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**



Issue 10: December 2010

LINK NEWS

Patient information and choice

18 people joined together to talk about how to improve information for patients in the NHS. Coventry LINK and Voluntary Action Coventry's Health and Social Care Project combined to run a focus group to discuss ideas about patient information and choice.

This session was prompted by two Government consultation documents one on improving patient choice in the NHS and one about better information. It brought together local people and voluntary and community groups which support different groups of people.

Information is really important for patients and LINK has made a number of recommendations for better information so far.

The group discussed how information can support patient choice, what information different groups of people might need and how to get the best information to people at the right time.

The findings will be used in a LINK response to the Government's consultation. To find out more about the Government's ideas visit:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120080

LINK reports & recommendations

Since the last newsletter LINK has published:

- A report identifying good practice in GP appointment systems
- A leaflet summarising good practice ideas for GP appointments aimed at GP practices
- A report and recommendations about choice and control for users of social care services.

The reports can be found on the LINK website at: www.coventrylink.org.uk/impact or contact us at the office if you would like a paper copy.

LINK work programme

Work has begun to find out about patient transport for renal patients and inpatient activities for patients at the Caludon Centre. Fact finding meetings have been held and the new working groups have met. There is still time to join these working groups though.

LINK has received the formal response from Coventry City Council to its recommendations about personalisation in adult social care. The Council has taken on board a number of key points and we will be working on a number of pieces of work as a result.

LOCAL NEWS

Personalisation in practice

A local scheme which trains people to cycle safely has proved to be an excellent vehicle to get people on the road to wellbeing and greater independence.

Bikeability is Cycling Proficiency for the 21st century and provides an incentive for people to undertake quality cycle training; an important life skill. Apart from the general health benefits of cycling, which combines exercise with pleasure and sustainable transport, the Bikeability scheme is promoting positive mental health.



Lamb Street Centre works with people to support mental health recovery, and has enlisted the Council Training Team's Martin Ingram, to run Bikeability

courses. Now eight people have successfully taken to two wheels, being awarded their Bikeability certificates – with three trainees achieving the top Level 3 qualification.

Christine Eade, Manager at the Lamb Street Centre said: "The Bikeability course has given the trainees so much more than the ability to cycle well. Most of the trainees had either never cycled or not cycled for many years – over 30 in one case. But now the whole group is more independent and has learnt a fun way to keep fit.

"And as the majority are members of the Lamb Street Gardening Group – which trains people in gardening skills in a business setting – they'll be putting training into practice by cycling to various city locations to do gardening jobs. The scheme has given people a really important life skill while increasing their confidence."

Be a Time Chooser not a Time Loser

People in Coventry are being urged to be a time chooser, not a time loser, as part of an NHS drive to ensure they get the right treatment.

NHS Coventry has launched a major campaign to help educate local people about the appropriate choices they should make to get the best treatment or advice, and reduce pressure on Accident and Emergency services.

To find out more about the campaign and how you can get the right treatment visit: www.coventry.nhs.uk/HealthServices/GTRT

NHS Coventry invites you to Public Patient and Carer Event

NHS Coventry will be holding its next quarterly public, patient and carer event on the 16th December 2010 at the Butts Rugby Ground. The meeting will begin at 10:30 with refreshments at 10:00.

A buffet lunch will also be served with the meeting coming to a close at 2:30pm. In order to book your place contact Sumera Hussain 02476 246 1998 or email hussainsumera@coventrypct.nhs.uk

Cook and Eatwell Fund

The Cook and Eatwell Development Fund aims to support both voluntary and community organisations to build projects and activities in order to improve health through the development of healthy eating and cooking skills.

Briefing sessions will be held where you can find out more about the fund, discuss ideas informally and find out further details so you can apply. Contact Penny Wilkin on 024 7622 0381 or email p.wilkin@vac Coventry.org.uk

OTHER NEWS

Public Health White Paper

The White Paper *Healthy Lives, Healthy People* has been published for consultation. Plans include a new public health service called Public Health England to provide more control to people over their health and ring fenced funding from the NHS budget for public health work. For more information visit: <http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/healthy-people/healthy-people> The consultation closes on **8 March 2011**.

European doctor's competence and language skills to be checked

Following concerns about Drs' skills the Government plans to give the new NHS Commissioning Board responsibility to test both the language and clinical skills of doctors within the EU.

The Board will negotiate with the Government on an agreement to allow all European doctors to be tested for language and the proficiencies before entering employment in the UK.

Vision for social care

The Government's vision for adult social care has been compiled in a report called *Capable Communities and Active Citizens* published by the Department of Health. The aim is to move power from the state to the citizen in the following four ways:

1. Extend the rollout of personal budgets
2. Help keep independence and in turn help to build the big society
3. Break down the barriers between health and social care
4. Encourage care and support to be delivered in partnership between individuals, communities the voluntary sector the NHS and Councils.

To find out more information please visit: www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_121690

Consultation on Cancer Drugs Fund

The Government has announced plans to establish a Cancer Drugs Fund from April 2011. The objective of the fund is to improve patient access to cancer drugs. They are now consulting on the proposals including the objectives of the fund. The consultation closes on 19 January 2011.

Please visit:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120834

NICE loses power to decide on new drugs

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is set to lose its power to turn down the use of new NHS medicines.

Andrew Lansley the Health Secretary plans for decisions on whether a patient should receive a drug to be made patient's own doctors. The local GP commissioning body will be asked to agree to pay for the drugs.

Costs of drugs will be approved through a new value pricing system. The NHS will negotiate with the manufacturers on the price for each drug.

New mothers let down by post-natal care, according to survey

A survey carried out by the National Childbirth Trust finds that the majority of new mothers do not feel that they are offered the advice and support needed following birth. It also showed that only a minority of those questioned were receiving the personalised care recommended by NICE.

The survey found that 42% of the sample believed that there were 'sometimes' or 'never' enough midwives in hospital. For further findings visit:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-11451429

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

1. Assessment of Local Councils to stop

Paul Burstow the Minister of Care Services has announced that the CQC will no longer conduct an annual Performance Assessment of local Council's commissioning of adult social care services. Councils will instead have to take on the responsibility for improving by learning from one another. CQC will focus on assessing NHS and social care providers.

2. Report on the Quality of Adult Care 2009/2010

A Report published by the CQC this month showed that there has been improvement in Adult Social Care since 2008 but further growth in the market is required. To meet future needs.

Figures showed that 83% of care homes, home care services, nursing agencies and shared lives schemes were rated as good or excellent. This compares to 69% in 2008.

For more findings visit:

www.cqc.org.uk/newsandevents/newsstories.cfm?widCall1=customWidgets.content_view_1&cit_id=36849

3. Annual Report on the Mental Health Act

The Care Quality Commission has published its first annual report on the use

of the Mental Health Act within the NHS and private sector. The report highlights concerns about the level of service received by patients who are under the guidelines of the Act and queries whether service providers are following the principles of the Act and its Code of Practice. Three areas were highlighted for improvement:

- The involvement of patients on decisions about their care and treatment
- The assessment and recording of patients consent to treatment
- Minimising restrictions on patients and avoiding 'blanket' security measures

The report also assessed the workings of Community Treatment Orders (CTO's).

The full report can be downloaded from CQC's website at:

www.cqc.org.uk/mentalhealthactannualreport2009-10/downloadthereport.cfm

Community Treatment Orders Key Facts

- Community Treatment Orders (CTO) were introduced in November 2008.
- CTO's are for patients who are to be discharged and likely to refuse to take their medication or co-operate with community health services.
- CTO's are issued to ensure that patients receive care after their time in hospital and also allow for them be recalled to hospital.

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:
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