



News

1. What's going on in the LINK?

i) Term of office for Coordinating Team comes to an end

The term of office of existing members of the Coordinating Team of the LINK comes to an end on the 30 September 2009. This Team looks after the operation of the LINK in terms of its resources and ensuring it operates in a legal and proper way and in accordance with its governance arrangements. It also oversees the operation of the LINK's Moderating Panel and LINK projects

It is open to any LINK participant to apply to become part of the Coordinating Team, particularly those with skills in the following areas:

- Communications and PR
- Community engagement and partnerships
- Equality and diversity
- Facilitation skills
- Finance
- Governance
- Performance management
- Project management
- Strategic thinker

Team members are entitled to reimbursement of their travel and certain other costs.

For further information, or to lodge an expression of interest, contact Janine Judd by telephone on 01634 821135, email at info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or via the LINK website at <http://www.themedwaylink.org.uk/index.php?q=17>

The closing date for expressions of interest is 1 September 2009.

ii) Win cash prizes for your organisation

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and the Kent LINK are running a competition with prizes! Prizes to the total value of £5000 are available for community / voluntary organisations that can show how they have involved users of local services to influence decisions around health / social care services in East Kent.

To find out more, contact the Kent LINK by email at info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or by telephone on 01303 297050.

The closing date for competition applications is Thursday, 27 August 2009.

iii) Opportunities to influence the commissioning of health care in Medway

LINKs up and down the Country exist to provide opportunities for local people to get involved

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Supported by Kent & Medway Networks

5 August 2009 - Issue 17



in shaping their health and social care services, particularly around the commissioning of services, ie deciding what services are needed and helping to plan, develop and provide money for these for our local community.

We now know how NHS Medway plans to set about the commissioning process. This will be done through a number of groupings – what they call their ‘Strategic Change Programme’.

The groupings will comprise:

- Adult mental health
- Cancer
- Children’s services
- Choosing health – ie positive health and wellbeing
- Coronary heart disease
- Diabetes
- End of life
- Learning disabilities
- Long term conditions
- Maternity
- Older people’s services
- Planned care
- Primary care
- Renal
- Substance misuse
- Stroke
- Urgent care

We know that within the Medway LINK there are LINK participants with an interest in these areas. There are a number of ways participants can now get involved. You can:

- represent the LINK on one of the above groups
- be part of a LINK interest group to support the LINK representative
- just receive information about one or more of the above interest areas and, from time to time, input into the discussions.

If you were appointed as a LINK representative to one of the above groups your travel expenses would be met, but you would be responsible for keeping those in the LINK with an interest informed and to act as a conduit for their views. If you are interested in any of the above, contact Kirsty Tipler by telephone on 01634 821135, email at kirsty@kmn-ltd.co.uk or text 07976 596913.

iv) Writing a strategy with local people to transform community services in East Kent

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and the Kent LINK are working together to enable patients, carers, the public, staff and local groups to influence the first community services strategy in



East Kent. It is recognised that some Medway LINK participants live in the Swale area which is situated in East Kent.

The strategy will cover community services for adults and children in:

- Promoting health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities
- Long term conditions
- Rehabilitation and long term neurological conditions
- Acute services closer to home
- End of life care
- Mental health

The NHS in East Kent already has strategies for others community services and these will be incorporated into the strategy.

A number of groups will be targeted and offered meetings. If you belong to a community and voluntary sector group with an interest in community services in East Kent and would like to have your say, contact Louise Murrell at the Kent LINK by telephone on 07976 596797 or 01303 297050, by email at louise@kentlink.org or via our website at <http://www.thekentlink.org.uk/index.php?q=17>

There are two other opportunities to have your say on the emerging strategy. These will be held in Canterbury – 10.00am to 12.00noon or 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Friday, 21 August 2009 at the Riverside Children's Centre, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury, CT2 7PH.

Contact Louise (details as above) if you wish to attend.

v) **LINK developing children and young person's strategy**

Kent and Medway LINKs now have over 100 young people joined up as LINK participants. If you, or someone you know, fall into this category, ie under 18 years of age, and want to help to develop the LINK's strategy for engaging young people in shaping health and social care services in the Medway, contact Louise Murrell at the Kent LINK by telephone on 07976 596797 or 01303 297050, by email at louise@kentlink.org or via our website at: <http://www.thekentlink.org.uk/index.php?q=17>

2. **Scrutiny committee meets in Rainham**

Members of the public are being invited to air their views on health and social care issues.

The Medway Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee has decided to hold its meetings in the community rather than at Gun Wharf; the next meeting will

be held at Rainham Mark Social Club on Thursday, 20 August 2009 from 6.00pm.



NHS Medway has been invited to present its contingency plans around the winter period and how A & E in particular will cope with seasonal demand, especially in light of Swine Flu.

There will also be discussion on the possible impact of mobile phone masts on health.

The South East Coast Ambulance Trust will be talking about its application for foundation trust status. The presentation is part of the Trust's 12-week public consultation, which was launched on Saturday, 25 July 2009 and runs until Friday, 16 October 2009.

Chairman of the committee Cllr Mike O'Brien said: "By holding the meetings in the community and inviting members of the public to come along and take part I am hoping that we will generate a lively debate about health issues in Medway. Health is an important issue and I would like to see more people getting involved in the democratic process."

For further information contact Rosie Gunstone, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Chatham, ME4 4TR, telephone 01634 332715, email rosie.gunstone@medway.gov.uk or visit the website: www.medway.gov.uk

3. Challenging stigma this summer

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust are joining a national campaign to end the stigma sometimes associated with mental illness. They want to keep chipping away at the myths that surround mental health problems and get people talking about mental health. During the summer they will be taking part in the campaign and holding some road shows in the Autumn.

The campaign is led by Mental Health Media, Mind and Rethink. To find out more email campaign@time-to-change.org.uk

For further information contact Janet Lloyd, PPCI Manager, by email at Janet.Lloyd@kmpt.nhs.uk, telephone 01227 812034 or visit the website: <http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/what-we-are-doing/our-campaign/campaign-summer-2009>

4. National Swine Flu Service

A new website and phone line has been set up to give people with Swine Flu symptoms fast access to antivirals.

The National Pandemic Flu Service website (www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu) and phone line (0800 1 513 100 or textphone 0800 1 513 200) allows people to check their symptoms and get a unique number which will give them access to antivirals if needed. The service will also tell people where their nearest antiviral collection point is. They should then ask a flu friend - a friend or relative who doesn't have Swine Flu - to go and pick up their antivirals.



The flu friend must show their own ID as well as the patient's. The authorisation number and ID will be checked to ensure it matches information given during the assessment.

Anyone who suspects they have Swine Flu is advised not to go to their GP or to accident and emergency. People should contact their doctor direct rather than using the National Pandemic Flu Service if:

- they have a serious underlying illness
- they are pregnant
- they have a sick child under one year old
- their condition suddenly gets much worse
- their condition is still getting worse after seven days (five days for a child).

The service will give patients quicker access to information and antivirals when needed and relieve the burden on GPs and NHS services.

As Swine Flu spreads, it is important to be able to recognise its symptoms. People who have two of the following symptoms and a temperature of 38°C and above may have Swine Flu.

The typical symptoms are:

- sudden fever (a high body temperature of 38°C / 100.4°F or above)
- sudden cough.

Other symptoms may include:

- headache
- tiredness
- chills
- aching muscles
- limb or joint pain
- diarrhoea or stomach upset
- sore throat
- runny nose
- sneezing
- loss of appetite.

Events

Please note that in accordance with the LINK's Governance, expenses are not reimbursable for attendance at the events shown below.

1. First meeting of Stroke Club – Swale

The first meeting of Swale's Stroke Club took place on 9 July 2009. The second meeting is



scheduled from 12.00noon to 2.30pm on Thursday, 20 August 2009 in the Alec Stride Hall, Hope Street Centre, Sheerness. Stroke patients, family and carers are all invited.

For further information, contact Carolyn Hendry by telephone on 07747 766555.

2. Living with diabetes days

Events are being held for people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes as follows:

- Tuesday, 6 October 2009 The Historic Dockyard, Chatham
- Tuesday, 13 October 2009 Kings Hill Conference and Training Centre

These meetings have been supported with an educational grant from Takeda UK and Ireland Ltd.

For more information about these events contact Diabetes UK South East by email at south.east@diabetes.org.uk or telephone 01372 720148.

3. Shaping the future of your ambulance service 2009

South East Coast Ambulance Service are holding a series of consultation events on how they can improve and progress their services in future. They also will take this opportunity to share their plans and progress on becoming a Foundation Trust. The events will start at 10.00am and finish promptly at 3.15pm, with lunch provided.

The events will take place as follows:

- Thursday, 3 September 2009 – Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford, Kent
- Wednesday, 16 September 2009 – Dorking Halls, Dorking, Surrey
- Friday, 18 September 2009 – Clair Hall, Haywards Heath, Sussex

If you are interested in attending one or more of these events, or would like more information email shapingthefuture@secamb.nhs.uk or telephone 01622 740385. Attendance will be limited in accordance with venue capacity.

4. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

The next meeting of the Trust Board will be on 30 September 2009 at Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, ME16 9QQ and will be held in Room 105 / 106. The meeting time is to be confirmed.

For further information contact Gail Spinks, Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, ME16 9QQ, email gspinks@nhs.net or telephone 0845 155 1000.

Consultations

1. NHS Constitution

The NHS Constitution was published in January this year. For the first time, this document centralises the rights of patients and staff in one place. It provides information in an accessible and useful format to support choice and makes commitments to equip staff with the tools they need to deliver an excellent standard of care for patients and value for money for the public. More information about the NHS Constitution can be found on the Department of Health and NHS Choices websites:

<http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/aboutnhs/pages/constitution.aspx>

The National Association of LINK Members (NALM) wants to hear LINK participants' views on the state of readiness of the NHS to have regard for the NHS Constitution. In particular, they would value your thoughts on the following questions:

1. What are the three most important actions to be taken amongst local organisations to effectively embed the NHS Constitution?
2. What are the three main obstacles to successfully embedding the NHS Constitution at local and national levels?
3. What are the three main steps that you believe the Department of Health should take to support the achievement of a state of readiness at all levels to implement the NHS Constitution?

Your answers to these questions will help to support the work of the recently formed 'State of Readiness Group' (SORG). This group was established by the NHS Chief Executive, David Nicholson, to make recommendations to the NHS Management Board on how best to support the embedding of the NHS Constitution. A report to the Board will be completed in the summer.

There are two ways to respond:

1. Through an online survey on the LINK's website at:
<http://www.themedwaylink.org.uk/index.php?q=332>
2. By sending your comments on the above questions to the LINK's Freepost address:
The Medway LINK, KMN, FREEPOST NAT17761, Folkestone, CT19 4BR

2. Ambulance service goes for Foundation Trust status

South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) has launched a 12-week consultation on plans to become a foundation trust. Foundation trusts are a new type of NHS trust, created to devolve decision-making from central government control to local organisations and communities, so they are more responsive to the needs and wishes of local people.

During the consultation period, residents of Kent, Surrey and Sussex - along with residents from the parts of Berkshire and north-east Hampshire which receive SECAMB services - will



have an opportunity to give their views on SECamb's plans for the future as well as sign up to become members of the new Trust.

By registering as members, residents, patients, SECamb staff and representatives from partner organisations will have a chance to be more involved in how 999 emergency healthcare services are developed in the future.

The consultation will run until midnight on Friday, 16 October 2009.

To find out more about the consultation, including public events and becoming a member, visit www.ysyc.secamb.nhs.uk or contact Louise Hutchinson, Head of Patient Experience, by email at louise.hutchinson@secamb.nhs.uk or telephone 01273 897805.

3. Big care debate starts

The Government has issued a consultation document (a Green Paper) entitled Shaping the Future of Care Together. It sets out a vision for a new social care and support system. The Green Paper highlights the challenges faced by the current system and the need for radical reform, to develop a National Care Service that is fair, simple and affordable for everyone.

Within the Green Paper, it sets out a number of consultation questions and asks everyone to provide their views about how they think the Government can make this vision a reality and develop a care and support system fit for the 21st century.

The consultation will last until 13 November 2009. During this time the Government will be running a series of events for stakeholders and members of the public where these issues can be discussed in detail. If you would like to get involved in these events, you can find out how by going to the website www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm

All information about the Green Paper consultation can be found at www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk. You can find regular updates on how the consultation is progressing on the Department of Health's website.

Alternatively, you can email careandsupport@dh.gsi.gov.uk or write to the Care and Support Team, Room 149, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS to tell them your views.

If you would like to read the Green Paper in a different format or language, contact the DH Publications Orderline, PO Box 777, London, SE1 6XH or email dh@prolog.uk.com

4. Doctors consult on research guidelines

The General Medical Council is inviting the public's view on three pieces of guidance for doctors. These are:

- a. Good practice in research

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a Local Involvement Network

- b. Consent to research
- c. Making and using visual and audio recordings of patients

You can read the drafts of the guidance and take part in the consultation online at:
<https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/>

For further information contact Jane O'Brien, Assistant Director – Standards and Fitness to Practise, General Medical Council, Regent's Place, 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3JN.

Paper copies and alternative formats are available on request by email standard.consult@gmc-uk.org or by telephone 020 7189 5404.

Contact Information

The Medway LINK may be contacted via the Host Organisation as below:

KMN, Avenue Business Centre, 17 New Road Avenue, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6BA.

Email: info@kmn-ltd.co.uk Tel: 01634 821135 SMS Text: 07976 596913

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

(Answerphone available out of office hours)