

MEDWAY LINK BULLETIN

Supported by Kent & Medway Networks

Issue 7

30 January 2009



a LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK

Stop Press!

1. Medway LINK becomes legal

At its inaugural meeting on 7 January 2009 (see item below) the Medway LINK became a legal entity and the transitional phase of its development came to an end. With this Bulletin LINK participants will receive information on how they can start to get involved in the LINK, such as how to:

- **raise an issue** and make a difference
- **make contact with other LINK participants** with similar interests
- **get more actively involved** in such activities as a LINK visitor or mystery shopper
- **make a contribution to the LINK's work programme**, and, if they are a participating community and voluntary sector organisation
- **make a bid for LINK project money**
- seek to **represent the LINK** on a commissioning or service provider decision making group

If you or a community group you are involved with have not yet become a LINK participant, don't delay – join today through:

- the Medway LINK website: www.themedwaylink.co.uk
- Email: info@kmn-ltd.co.uk
- Tel: 01634 821135
- SMS Text: 07976 596913

Potentially, 250,000 people in Medway can become LINK participants – getting involved at any level they feel comfortable with – dipping in when things interest them or just being kept informed when they have less interest.

To know what is going on and to exert some influence in the way health and social care services are delivered, why not use the Local Involvement Network and benefit from the powers and resources at its disposal?

2. First Medway LINK's work plan takes shape

The Medway LINK became a legal entity on Wednesday, 7 January 2009 at a formal, all singing, all dancing, launch. One of the first tasks of those present was to try and decide which issues facing the community of Medway it should tackle first. Those present at the launch prioritised issues from a long shopping list – some of which comprised concerns which had been passed on from the former Patient and Public Involvement Forums and others which newly signed up LINK participants had raised. The culmination of this work has resulted in a number of possible projects, as follows:

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- **Ambulance / transport services**

To investigate communication with health and social care services with a view to improving these.

- **General health and wellbeing**

To contribute to public health initiative to raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol abuse and to encourage sensible drinking.

- **Hospital services**

To review arrangements for reducing the incidence of infections in hospitals serving the community of Medway.

- **Primary Care**

To carry out a review of intermediate care services, ie the care between hospital and care at home.

- **Social care in the community**

To join the debate around self directed care with a view to the community of Medway influencing forthcoming legislation in this area which will impact on the way day care services are provided in the future.

- **Social care in residential settings**

To review arrangements for the treatment of the physical care needs of people with a mental illness in residential and other settings.

- **User Groups**

To promote initiatives aimed at reducing the stigma of mental ill health.

This is an ambitious programme which is now being costed and project teams recruited. LINK participants will shortly be invited to take part in this work according to their particular interests.

In addition to the above, the LINK is working with the Healthcare Commission with a view to the LINK producing a third party commentary to go with local NHS organisations' self declarations against core quality standards for the period 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009. How well do you think your local hospital / GP / or other health care provider performed during that period? Let us have your views through our website at:

www.themedwaylink.co.uk/index.php?q=17

or by contacting us through our Medway office on 01634 821135.

3. Medway LINK Participant Induction Events

The first induction event is now being planned for Medway LINK participants and is scheduled to take place as shown below. Further information on the content of the day will be available shortly; however, the role and responsibilities of the LINK and participants will be covered during the sessions. If you would like to book a place at this event, please contact the administrator shown below. Please advise of any special or dietary requirements when booking your place.

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Thursday, 12 March 2009
Princes Hall, Corn Exchange, Rochester, ME1 1LS
10.00am – 3.30pm
Kirsty – 07976 594541 / 01303 297050

News

1. Launch of the Medway LINK

The Medway Local Involvement Network (LINK), a new ground breaking initiative, was launched on Wednesday, 7 January 2009 in Rochester. His Worshipful the Mayor, David Carr, was guest speaker at the event. He welcomed the setting up of the LINK in Medway as another step towards enabling local people to share in the development of their health and social care services.

For the first time, the people of Medway will become true shareholders in their health and social care services.

LINKs are part of a network set up across the UK. The Medway LINK is an independent organisation made up of individuals and community groups who work together to influence and improve local health and social care services in their area.

Legislation gives LINKs the power to:

- Make reports and recommendations for improving services and get a reply within a set amount of time.
- Request information within a set amount of time.
- Viewing services first hand.
- Inform the elected politicians on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of what the LINK has found and receive a response.

Every person, community and voluntary organisation in Medway can be part of the Medway LINK. There are no strings or obligations - they can join and get involved at any level they want and dip in and out of getting involved in LINK activities as they wish. They could become a LINK 'mystery shopper'; join a group around their particular interest area and take part in discussions, consultations, surveys and focus groups. They could be LINK representative on a health or social care planning / decision making body, but with the power of the LINK behind them and accountable to the LINK.

The LINK is not:

- A committee of people representing others.
- Party political.
- A complaints body.



It is, in concept, a LINK of the people.....!

2. Closure of Children's Centre at Medway Maritime Hospital

Due to winter pressures at Medway Maritime Hospital the specialist Sanderson Child Development Centre has been closed to provide for increased bed capacity. The centre's services have been relocated to:

- Chaucer Ward in "A" Block at Medway Maritime Hospital
- Parklands Resource Centre, Gillingham
- Rainham Healthy Living Centre
- Rochester Healthy Living Centre, Delce Road, Rochester

NHS organisations can make closures without consultation under certain circumstances, such as health and safety considerations, but these are usually exceptional. Further information is being sought on what consultation has taken place with those affected by the closure and what plans there are to reinstate the service.

We would welcome comments from LINK participants on what further action the LINK should take in this matter. Contact the Medway LINK using the 'Contact Us' page at www.themedwaylink.co.uk or telephone 01634 821135.

3. Medway Older Persons Partnership (MOPP) - looking for a new Chair

MOPP is looking for a new chairperson. If you are interested in more information on this position, contact Tricia Butt at MOPP on 01634 612850.

4. The state of social care in England 2007 - 2008

The Commission for Social Care Inspection says that progress on personalised care is patchy. Too few people with complex needs are experiencing personalised care.

Further information is available from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, 33 Greycoat Street, London, SW1P 2QF, telephone 0845 015 0120 or 0191 233 3323 or visit the website: www.csci.org.uk/about_csci/news.aspx

5. Dignity in care award

The Commission for Social Care Inspection People's Award for Dignity in Care is a way to say thank you to health and social care staff and highlight the remarkable work they do.

Further information is available from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, 33 Greycoat

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Street, London, SW1P 2QF, telephone 0845 015 0120 or 0191 233 3323 or visit the website:
http://www.csci.org.uk/about_csci/news.aspx

6. Five-point plan for alcohol-free childhood

For the first time, young people and their parents will have clear medical guidance on alcohol consumption. The guidance is to be published for consultation. It will recommend that young people up to the age of 15 should avoid alcohol altogether.

The five-point guidance document will form part of a consultation on alcohol and young people launched by Children Schools and Families Secretary, Ed Balls, Health Secretary, Alan Johnson, and the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson.

For further information contact the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT, email info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0870 000 2288.

7. Health Profile of England 2008

First published in 2006, the Health Profile of England provides a collation of national and regional data to provide a baseline against which people can compare data from their own Local Health Profile (LHP). The 2008 report updates tables showing regional comparisons and national trends for indicators presented in Local Health Profiles, as well as a wide ranging snapshot of public health and well-being in England and a section on international comparisons.

The Health Profile of England is intended to be of use to public service professionals and officials within the local community - such as local councillors and primary care trust directors of public health - who are in a position to exert influence over the planning, commissioning, procurement and delivery of public health programmes. But the document will also be of interest to a much wider audience - anyone with an interest in the profile of health and health determinants in this country.

The Health Profile of England illustrates progress in respect of a broad range of measures of health determinants and outcomes. It represents a component of the national public health information and intelligence strategy, drawing together a range of evidence to provide a convenient source of public health metrics.

For further information contact the Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website:
www.dh.gov.uk



8. Free treatment for cancer patients - From 1 April

People being treated for cancer will be eligible for free prescriptions from 1 April and can apply for free prescriptions now. The new scheme, announced by the Prime Minister in September last year, abolishes NHS prescription charges for everyone undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer, or the effects of cancer treatment. Up to 150,000 patients already diagnosed with cancer are expected to benefit, and may save £100 each year in prescription charges.

Application forms can be collected from GP surgeries and oncology clinics and must be countersigned by the patient's GP, hospital doctor or service doctor.

For further information contact The Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website:
www.dh.gov.uk

9. New voluntary register for complementary healthcare

The Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC) opened its new register on 19 January 2009. For the first time in the UK, members of the public who use a range of complementary healthcare services will be able to check that their practitioner is registered with an independent and robust voluntary registration body.

For further information contact The Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website:
www.dh.gov.uk

10. Making experiences count

From 1 April, a single complaints system will cover all health and adult social care services in England. The Department of Health are holding free regional and networking events to showcase the good practice and learning from the early adopter programme as well as provide access to information and support.

For further information contact The Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website:
www.dh.gov.uk

11. The use of 084 numbers in the NHS

The NHS could be stopped from using more expensive telephone numbers such as 084, under proposals set out in a public consultation.

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Some people currently have to pay more than the equivalent cost of a local rate call when they telephone their GP or other NHS service. A number of NHS organisations, although still a small minority, have started using 084 numbers in recent years.

Ben Bradshaw, Health Minister, said:

"We are concerned that some people are paying above the odds to contact the NHS. For people on low incomes who need to contact their local doctor or hospital regularly, those costs can soon mount up".

The Department has issued guidance to the NHS on the use of 084 numbers on several occasions. The consultation will seek a solution that combines the valued extra functions and level of service an 084 numbers provide, but at a cost of a local call. There are alternatives to the 084 range which are able to incorporate these two features.

The 14-week consultation is seeking views from:

- users of 084 numbers
- those who provide services using 084 numbers
- NHS organisations that do not use 084 numbers
- the telecommunications industry
- other interested parties

Further information is available from The Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or at the website: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/index.htm

12. Mixed-sex wards to be penalised - NHS Trusts in England which fail to scrap mixed-sex accommodation will be subject to penalties as part of a fresh bid to "all but" eradicate such wards

The BBC News reported 29 January 2009:

Health Secretary Alan Johnson said hospitals would only be paid for the treatment of a patient on a mixed-sex ward if it was clinically justified.

Some 15% of hospital trusts still use at least one open-plan mixed-sex ward.

But while there will be penalties, hospitals will at the same time receive cash to overhaul accommodation.

A "privacy and dignity fund" of £100m is to be made available immediately to enable health authorities to make the necessary adjustments to their accommodation over the next six months.

But if patients are still being accommodated for no good reason on mixed-sex wards by the

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financial year 2010 - 2011, hospitals will be penalised, Mr Johnson said.

A government source said this meant hospitals would lose up to 2% of their income if they could not prove their mixed-sex accommodation was clinically justifiable.

Defining terms

Under the existing rules on mixed-sex accommodation, wards do not need to be single-sex but patients should be kept in bays divided at the very least by a fixed full-height partition.

Patients should also not be expected to walk past others of the opposite sex to go to washing or toilet facilities.

Intensive care and A&E wards are for practical reasons not included, and the Health Secretary stressed again in his address to NHS Chairs that there are "good, clinical reasons why men and women are cared for in the same accommodation".

But he added: "I want to make it clear today that mixed sex accommodation is no longer tolerable in the NHS, except when it is absolutely clinically necessary."

Labour pledged to end mixed-sex accommodation in both its 1997 and 2001 manifestos.

But after being granted a Freedom of Information request, the Conservatives revealed earlier this month that 15% of trusts were still just using curtains to divide patients of the opposite sex.

Just days ago, a health service memo also released by the Tories revealed Mr Johnson's frustration with the failure to eradicate mixed-sex wards.

He was quoted as saying that "sane and rational arguments about why it can't be done no longer cut it with me, it's going to happen."

Michael Summer, of the Patients Association, said pledges to end mixed-sex accommodation had been made many times before and "nothing has happened".

"If it really does happen this time we would welcome it, but we just have to wait and see.

"It is one of the issues which really concerns us and one which really upsets patients - and particularly women."

Paul Cann, head of policy at Help the Aged, said £100m should be sufficient for an adequate overhaul.

"Single sex wards may be out of this price range but the goal of single sex accommodation may be possible. This money should be used to end the practice of unisex bathrooms and

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toilets.

"It should ensure that where wards must be shared, proper privacy can be maintained with more than a flimsy curtain as a divider. Members of the opposite sex should never be asked to share accommodation bays or be exposed before other patients."

Shadow Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said: "Alan Johnson's new plans fall far short of what the NHS needs. "

"If Labour were serious about stopping patients being forced to share wards with the opposite sex they would copy our pledge to double the number of single rooms in the NHS. "Our pledge would allow every patient going into hospital for planned care have a single room if they want one."

Nigel Edwards, director of policy at the NHS Confederation, said penalties could put a stop to mixed-sex wards but their effect on other features of care should be monitored.

"Providing single sex accommodation across the board could well have an impact on other priorities we are working towards in the NHS like faster turn-around times in accident and emergency and waiting times for surgery.

"The most important consideration must always be patient safety and ensuring that the right treatment is carried out properly and promptly."

Further information is available at www.bbc.co.uk

13. Health care standards – what do you think?

Every year local NHS organisations have to declare whether they have met certain national core standards. These cover such things as patient safety, hygiene, privacy and dignity, etc. This is an annual self declaration to a body called the Healthcare Commission. They carry out inspections to about 20% of the NHS to check up on these self declarations.

It is, however, open to the LINK to add its own commentary to these declarations. The LINK is intending this year - for the period under review (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009) - to collect participants' views and to work with voluntary sector organisations throughout Medway to gather evidence on health care standards and whether these have been met during the period in question. If you belong to a community / voluntary organisation that represents a group of people who have experience of using different aspects of Medway's health service and wish to work with the LINK on this, please contact us at the Medway office on 01634 821135 or via the website at:

<http://www.themedwaylink.co.uk/index.php?q=17>



14. Valuing People Now

The Department of Health has launched the new cross-Government three-year strategy, Valuing People Now - a strategy for people with learning disabilities. A detailed delivery plan is published alongside the strategy, together with the response to the consultation and further response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights report – 'A Life Like Any Other'. In addition, 'Valuing People Now' responds to the key recommendations of 'Healthcare for All - the report of the independent inquiry chaired by Sir Jonathan Michael'.

For further information contact The Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website:
www.dh.gov.uk

15. Social work taskforce members and remit announced

Children's Secretary Ed Balls and Health Secretary Alan Johnson have announced the membership of the Social Work Taskforce, set up to undertake a comprehensive review of frontline social work practice.

Further information is available from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT, telephone 0870 000 2288, email info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or visit the website:
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

16. Increase in Meningococcal type B infections in England

An increase in meningococcal group B infections (MenB) has been recorded by the Health Protection Agency in late December 2008 and early January of this year for England, although the annual number of cases for 2008 remains similar to previous years. There have been 252 cases of MenB reported in the last four weeks in December and first two weeks of January compared to 198 for the same period the year before. The provisional annual total of MenB infections during 2008 was 1070, similar to the annual totals for 2007 (1076) and 2006 (1011).

Overall the numbers of confirmed meningococcal cases remains low with only 1194 confirmed cases in 2008, lower than 2007 (1256) and continuing the overall downward trend since 1999/2000. A major contribution to this reduction has been the sustained fall in meningococcal C (MenC) cases following the introduction of the MenC vaccine in 1999.

Meningococcal disease is a serious infection caused by a bacterium known as meningococcus which can be found naturally at the back of the throat or nose in about 10% of the population. Many adults and children carry these germs without ill effects. Only rarely do they overcome the body's defences and cause illness.

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Dr Mary Ramsay, an immunisation expert at the Health Protection Agency, said: "Thanks to the introduction on the MenC vaccine in 1999 we've seen a decrease in cases due to this strain with only 22 cases last year, compared to 989 cases in 1999. However, we do not yet have a vaccine against the most common group, MenB, and we have seen a significant rise in cases in the last few weeks. It's too early to tell whether this increase will continue or if there is a single cause but as we do see increases in the winter months this is a timely reminder that infection with meningococcal bacteria can cause serious diseases such as meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). Meningitis and septicaemia can occur together or separately and the consequences of which can include permanent disability or death. These diseases can also develop very quickly. This is why it is so important to stay vigilant and be able to recognise the signs and symptoms quickly and seek urgent medical help if there is any concern at all."

Meningitis Research Foundation Chief Executive, Christopher Head, said: "The latest figures remind us that meningitis and septicaemia are a significant threat. These deadly diseases can kill in hours. The most important thing you can do to protect your family against MenB is to know the symptoms and act quickly, this could save a life. It is also vital to ensure they have all their immunisations to protect against other kinds of meningitis and septicaemia."

Someone with the infection will become very ill, though not all the symptoms will occur at once. In children and adults symptoms can include:

- a high temperature and / or vomiting;
- severe headache;
- a stiff neck, aching limbs and joints;
- a dislike of bright lights;
- drowsiness and / or a purple rash, which does not fade when pressed;
- in small babies, a refusal to feed and a high pitched cry.
- cold hands and feet

For further information contact the Health Protection Agency, South East Regional Office, 7th Floor, Holborn Gate, 330 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7PP, telephone 0207 759 2842 / 2841 / 2851 or visit the website at:
www.hpa.org.uk

17. NHS South East Coast Best of Health Awards 2009

Members of the public, patients and carers are urged to give something back by nominating someone from their local health or social care services for the Best of Health Awards 2009.

These annual awards recognise and reward the hard work and excellent services being provided by staff in our local NHS and social care organisations.

It is very important to staff to be nominated by their patients, service users, carers or

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members of the public as it offers them a real chance to hear how the services are being used, by whom and whether they are offering the best care possible.

The annual awards are organised by NHS South East Coast, the regional headquarters of the NHS. The public are asked to nominate in three categories this year:

- Health and Social Care Professional of the Year
- Unsung Hero
- People's Award for Dignity in Care.

All nominations should be made by 6 March 2009. The winners from across Kent, Surrey and Sussex will be announced at a prestigious awards ceremony in May 2009.

Last year, two teams from Maidstone were recognised for their patient commitment - The Personality Disorders Team and the Evolve Project Team.

The closing date for nominations is 6 March 2009

To take part and for more details on how to nominate please contact the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority, York House, 18-20 Massetts Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 7DE, telephone 01293 778 899 or visit the website at: www.southeastcoast.nhs.uk/bestofhealth.

Consultations

1. Developing the Quality and Outcome Framework: Proposals for a new, independent process

Summary: A consultation on developing a new strategy for the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF).

Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: Quality Team, Primary Medical Care, Room 2E56, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE or email: QOFConsultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation ends: 2 February 2009

2. Chemotherapy services in England, ensuring quality and safety; a report from the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group Draft for consultation

Summary: The aim of this report is to bring about a step change in the quality and safety of chemotherapy services for adult patients with either solid cancers or haematological

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malignancies. The report sets out a framework for planning and monitoring services based on a care pathway model and the actions that need to be taken by commissioners and providers to ensure high quality care.

Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: Jane Whittome, National Cancer Action Team, Department of Palliative Medicine, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH or e-mail jane.whittome@gstt.nhs.uk

Closing date: 4 February 2009

3. Consultation on end of life care strategy - Quality markers consultation

Summary: A consultation to identify the need for a national approach to raise the quality of care for people at the end of life.

Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: End of Life Care Team, Department of Health, Room 402, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, email eolc@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 020 7972 4967.

Consultation ends: 6 February 2009

4. End of life care strategy - Quality markers consultation

Summary: A consultation to identify the need for a national approach to raise the quality of care for people at the end of life.

Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: End of Life Care Team, Department of Health, Room 402, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, email eolc@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 020 7972 4967.

Consultation ends: 6 February 2009

5. The future of the healthcare science workforce. Modernising scientific careers: the next steps

Summary: This consultation document sets out proposals to transform the future training and career pathways of the healthcare science workforce. These proposals have been developed as the result of detailed discussions with nearly 3,000 stakeholders. This UK initiative will be taken forward by the four countries in partnership with all major stakeholders, including patient groups, to ensure that the healthcare science workforce is fit for the future in a rapidly changing and evolving healthcare environment.

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Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850.

Responses to: Professor Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer, Department of Health, Room 526, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 5779.

Consultation ends: 6 March 2009

6. Creating a new professional regulator for pharmacy: health care and associated professions - the draft Pharmacy Order 2009

Summary: The draft Pharmacy Order 2009 and consultation document set out proposals to create a new regulator for pharmacy professionals and pharmacy premises in England, Wales and Scotland.

Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: Draft Pharmacy Order 2009 Consultation, Pharmacy Professional Regulation Team, Room 453D, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London SE1 6LH or email pharmprofreg-response@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation ends: 9 March 2009

7. The Care Quality Commission - Reviews in 2009 / 2010

Summary: Consultation document giving an overview of the Care Quality Commission's three types of review with proposals for how they will carry them out in 2009/10.

Further information Contact: Care Quality Commission, 7th Floor, New Kings Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London, SE1 9BW or telephone 03000 616161

Responses to: Complete web version reply form on Care Quality Commission website, complete Care Quality Commission postal reply form or email: consultationresponses@cqc.org.uk titled 'CQC Reviews'.

Consultation ends: 12 March 2009

8. General Dental Council (Constitution) Order 2009

Summary: This paper sets out a proposed constitution for the GDC. It provides details of the composition of the council, the terms of office of council members, and criteria for the disqualification, suspension or removal of members from office.

Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850.

Responses to: Questionnaire available from the Department of Health (as above)

Consultation ends: 27 March 2009



9. Manual for Cancer Services: draft complementary therapy measures

Summary: The purpose of this consultation exercise is to ensure that the published Complementary Therapy Cancer Measures are both comprehensive and clear.

Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: National Cancer Peer Review, National Cancer Action Team, Department of Palliative Medicine, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH or email Andrianna.davis@ncpr.org.uk

Consultation ends: 27 March 2009

10. Consultation on regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008

Summary: This consultation contains four sets of regulations required to implement the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008.

Further information contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: HFE Act Implementation team, Department of Health, Room 609, Wellington House, 133–155 Waterloo Road, SE1 8UG, email hferegulations@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 020 797 24659.

Consultation ends: 30 March 2009

11. The use of 084 telephone numbers in the NHS

Summary: The Department of Health is considering prohibiting the use of 084 numbers in the NHS.

Further information Contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: Lois Quayle, 084 Consultation Responses, Department of Health, 2N16 Quarry House, Leeds, LS2 7UE or email: 084consultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation ends: 31 March 2009

12. Manual for Cancer Services 2008: Draft children's

Summary: Consultation to make children's cancer measures clear and comprehensive.

Further information Contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: Andrianna Davis, Project Assistant, National Cancer Peer Review, National Cancer Action Team, Department of Palliative Medicine, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EH or email Andrianna.davis@ncpr.org.uk

Consultation ends: 31 March 2009



13. Common Assessment Framework for Adults

Summary: This is a consultation on proposals to improve information sharing around multi-disciplinary assessment and care planning.

Further information Contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: CAF Policy Team, Department of Health, Room 123, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, email caf@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 020 7972 4130.

Consultation ends: 17 April 2009

14. The Health Professions Council (Constitution) Order 2009 - a paper for consultation

Summary: This draft order sets out a proposed constitution for the HPC. It provides details of the composition of the council, the terms of office of council members, and criteria for the disqualification, suspension or removal of members from office.

Further information Contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850.

Responses to: HPC Constitution Order consultation team, Department of Health, Room 2N10, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE or email HRDListening@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation ends: 17 April 2009

15. DH Consultation on the Fairer Charging Guidance in relation to personal budgets

Summary: Councils looking to revise their charging regimes may want to await the outcome of a Department of Health (DH) review of Fairer Charging guidance before implementing changes. DH is undertaking the review in relation to personal budgets as part of the work to help local authorities transform their social care systems. A national consultation on a proposed way of calculating a person's contribution to their personal budget began on 26 January 2009 and ends on 19 April.

Further information Contact: Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

Responses to: FCC team, Department of Health, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, email FCC@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 020 7972 4280.

Consultation ends: 19 April 2009

16. Young People and Alcohol Guidance

Summary: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has launched a consultation on alcohol guidance, advice and information for parents, children, young people and would welcome the views of children, young people, parents, carers and those

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organisations and professionals working with young people in health, children's services and education settings.

Further information Contact: Department for Children, Schools and Families, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or email info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0870 001 2345.

Responses to: An online response form is available at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=Respond&consultationId=1579&menu=1>

Consultation ends: 23 April 2009

17. Survey of parents / carers whose children are having a statutory assessment

Summary: To inform the development of information for children and young people who have a statutory assessment.

Further information contact: Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or telephone 08458 247247.

Responses to: Linda Baker on 01622 350640 or email: linda.baker@kent.gov.uk

Consultation ends: 31 July 2009

Events

1. Medway Coordinating Team meeting - 4 February 2009

The Medway Coordinating Team meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 4 February 2009 from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Mayor's Parlour, Brook Theatre, Chatham, ME4 4SE.

2. Kent Public Opinion Group - Ambulance Services

The role of this group is to ensure patients, carers and the public are actively and appropriately involved in all aspects of the Ambulance Trust's business. The next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday, 11 February 2009 at the Salvation Army Hall, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1ED.

For further information contact Louise Hutchinson at South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 40-42 Friars Walk, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2XW or email Louise.Hutchinson@secamb.nhs.uk or telephone 01273 897805.

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3. Positive Living

The support group for those affected by HIV have meetings in Dartford on the third Wednesday of every month and Maidstone on the first Wednesday of the month. For further information on these events contact: Jude Black at Voluntary Action West Kent, 19 Monson Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1LS or email jude.black@vawk.org.uk or telephone 01892 530 330.

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.

Tel: 01634 821135

E-mail: info@kmn-ltd.co.uk

SMS Text: 07976 594541

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm (Answerphone available out of office hours)