



News

1. Jack Shulman

It is with great sadness that we report the recent death of Jack Shulman. Jack was a member of the Governors' Group on the Kent LINK and a former member of the Medway Maritime Hospital Patient and Public Involvement Forum and before that a member of the Medway Community Health Council. A memorial service is being held at 1.30pm on Saturday, 7 November 2009 at the Friends Meeting House, Union Street, Maidstone. If you wish to attend, please let Hazel Bishop know on 01233 621407.

2. What's going on in the LINK?

i) A date for your diary!

The LINK's next quarterly event will be held in Gillingham and will take place between 5.00pm and 8.00pm on Tuesday, 27 October 2009 in the Cavalier Suite, King Charles Hotel, Brompton Road, Gillingham, ME7 5QT.

Between 5.00pm and 6.00pm there will be an information market place where LINK participants can get information about local services and the main event will be held between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. This will be an opportunity for LINK participants to raise and debate issues of interest in relation to Medway's health and social care services.

Marion Dinwoodie, Chief Executive of NHS Medway, will speak about plans for Medway's health services.

The 'Big Care' debate will also be one of the main items for discussion. LINK participants have already raised concerns about the likely impact of new legislation proposed in the Green Paper, 'Shaping the Future of Care Together'. Major concerns seem to be around the likely impact on benefits such as Attendance Allowance and Disability Allowance. The Green Paper consultation ends on 13 November 2009 and this will be an opportunity to contribute to the LINK's submission.

ii) LINK projects

1. Hygiene and cleanliness - information is currently being sought on NHS Trusts' policies and protocols for ensuring that care is provided in a safe environment. Quotes are also being sought for testing kits to be used by LINK visitors when carrying out their visits as part of this project.
2. Transport to hospitals – LINK participants, with this Bulletin, are being invited to get involved with this project (see separate communication) and to help form a project group to take the work forward. Transport systems and possible solutions are complex and a number of which other organisations have an interest in; so the first stage of this work is not to muddy the waters any further, but to find out who is doing what and see what role, if any, the LINK can perform and to contribute to this work.



3. Fair Access to Care Services – review of advisory services. Arrangements are in hand to train LINK ‘Mystery Shoppers’ to carry out a review of services that Medway Council currently contract to support those individuals who currently are not eligible for certain social services, including those people recently discharged from hospital.

iii) Moderating Panel

The Medway LINK’s Moderating Panel has approved actions relating to issues brought to the LINK, as follows:

- Impact of Green Paper, ‘Shaping the Future of Care Together’, for those on benefits
- Cleanliness and disinfection in hospital and patient safety
- The need for support for people suffering Colitis and Crohn’s disease
- Perceived shortcomings in pain control services in Kent and Medway
- Discharge arrangement, Medway Maritime Hospital
- Plans to improve the treatment of patients suffering a heart attack or stroke in West Kent
- Discrimination affecting gay people in mental health services
- Perceived shortcomings in physiotherapy and occupational services
- Improving audiology services
- Assisted help with services for young carers
- Whether the NHS is targeting minority groups at risk of cardiovascular disease and mental illness.

Further information about these items can be viewed on the work programme which is updated monthly to reflect decisions / actions being taken by the Moderating Panel and projects that are being overseen by the Coordinating Team of the LINK.

iv) Coordinating Team Selection Event

A second event is being held for LINK participants interested in becoming part of the LINK Coordinating Team – this will be on the evening of Thursday, 22 October 2009. After this event we will publish the names of members of the newly constituted Team.

v) LINK Authorised Visitors

LINK visitors attended the second in a series of training events on 30 September 2009. This was the penultimate stage in the process of authorising individual LINK participants to carry out visiting activities as part of a LINK project. The final process of the procedure for appointing ‘Authorised’ LINK visitors will be the Facilitator of the Coordinating Team checking and signing off the necessary documentation, ie checking references, Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and Prevention of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) checks and also checking that the individuals concerned have undergone appropriate training.

vi) LINK exhibits at AGMs

It is that time of year when NHS Trusts hold their AGMs and present their Annual Reports. The LINK and its participants have variously attended these events and, specifically, the LINK has exhibited at the AGMs of NHS Medway and Medway NHS Foundation Trust. These have been valuable opportunities to meet with NHS staff and with the various individuals and



organisations that attend these gatherings.

3. Medway uses resources wisely

The way that NHS Medway uses resources on behalf of people in Medway has got a 'good' rating from the Audit Commission.

This is an improvement on last year when the rating was 'fair'. The higher rating has been achieved even though the requirements for each level increased significantly this year.

Marion Dinwoodie, Chief Executive of NHS Medway, said: "This rating is a reflection of the hard work that has gone on at NHS Medway to ensure that we are using taxpayers' money in the most effective way to improve health and healthcare in Medway. I would like to thank everyone involved."

Jonathan Bates, Director of Finance and Assurance at NHS Medway, said: "Strong financial management is essential for good public services. A 'good' rating is excellent news for patients in Medway and for the staff involved."

The ratings were set out in the Audit Commission's 2008 / 2009 reports released on 1 October 2009. The score judges how well NHS organisations manage and use their financial resources and highlights areas for improvement.

The evaluations are used by the Care Quality Commission to assess trusts and primary care trusts on their use of resources for the annual health checks which are due later this month.

For more information contact Emma Burns, NHS Medway by email emma.burns@nhs.net or telephone 01634 335219.

4. Patient experience group for Swale

Dr C Ramu, a single-handed doctor in Sittingbourne, would like to introduce a Patient Experience Group to help improve the services offered at Milton Surgery. Patients of the surgery who are interested in getting involved with the practice will be asked to attend an informal meeting, perhaps every other month. Terms of reference for this group will be established. An invitation placed in the surgery has had little response to date, but the Practice Manager is keen to involve patients in developing the service.

For further information please contact the Practice Manager, The Milton Surgery, 95 High Street, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, ME10 2AR or telephone 01795 439097.

5. Supporting carers

NHS West Kent has been successful in becoming one of twenty five national demonstrator sites as part of the £16million programme for breaks, health checks and better support for



carers from the NHS. It is looking specifically at better NHS support for carers. The programme, announced by Care Services Minister, Phil Hope, in July, will run from October 2009. The West Kent project will comprise six carers' support workers, working in and with primary care, the acute hospitals and the voluntary sector.

Carers themselves will be involved at every stage of the project to ensure it delivers what they need, and to work closely with the NHS and expert partners in developing and delivering successful support packages.

For more information contact Emma Cain, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, email Emma.cain@wkpct.nhs.uk or telephone 01732 375287.

6. Review and redesign of mental health services – one year on

The review and redesign of acute mental health services was launched by NHS Medway in September 2008. A conference was held on 15 September 2009 to:

- let people know about progress with the review
- learn from people's experiences of using local services
- ask for people's ideas on good ways to consult the public on changes to the services.

The report of that conference has now been published and be obtained from the project manager, Matt Bukowski, email matt.bukowski@ntlworld.com or telephone 01522 850878.

7. Kent Neurology Group

The third meeting of this group was held at Churchill Square, Kingshill, West Malling on 5 October 2009. Their purpose was to consider the formation of an affiliated branch of the Neurological Alliance. Those attending were anxious to widen the net as far as possible to include all groups representing people with any neurological condition before the next meeting in November. Leaders of interested groups who want to join the alliance are requested to contact Roger or Monica Kendall by email herebay@aol.com or telephone 01227 360207.

8. HPV vaccine

Recently a 14 year old girl was taken ill shortly after receiving the HPV vaccine and later died.

Professor Salisbury, Director of Immunisation, advised that stocks of Cervarix vaccine from the batch in question had to be quarantined as a precautionary measure.

Public Health Minister, Gillian Merron, said: "Evidence from the coroner is absolutely clear that the vaccine did not cause Natalie's death. I strongly urge all girls to protect themselves against cervical cancer and have the vaccine when they are offered it. The HPV vaccine has



an excellent safety record and will save the lives of around 400 girls every year.”

For more information visit the following link:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_106137.pdf

Events

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

1. Have your say in dermatology services in Medway

NHS Medway is reviewing how and where patients with skin conditions are treated within Medway and are inviting views from members of the public at an event to be held on Tuesday, 13 October 2009 from 9.30am to 1.00pm. The venue is the Holiday Inn Hotel, Rochester Airport, Maidstone Road, Chatham, ME5 9SF.

If you would like more information or wish to attend the event, contact Will Fung, NHS Medway by email engagement@medwaypct.nhs.uk or telephone 07787 080113.

2. The Big Care Debate

The Government's new Green Paper 'Shaping the Future of Care Together' sets out a vision for a National Care Service for all adults in England. A service that is fair, simple and affordable for everyone underpinned by national rights and entitlements and personalised to individual needs. The paper asks for your views on some difficult choices that need to be taken to make for this vision a reality. Two events are planned at which the issues raised in the Green Paper will be discussed in detail. These are being organised by the Department of Health and Ministers, Department of Health officials and other key stakeholders will be on hand to debate the issues raised by the Green Paper.

To book your place at the following events online visit www.coievents.co.uk/careandsupport

- Brighton Tuesday, 3 November 2009 from 12.30pm to 4.30pm
- London Wednesday, 4 November 2009 from 12:30pm to 4.30pm

For more information contact The Care and Support Team by telephone on 0207 261 8400 or visit the website: www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk

3. Kent celebrates Black History Month

To celebrate the contribution of Kent's Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, 31 events are being held across the County. Kent residents are encouraged to join in this



diverse programme which is being coordinated by Kent County Council working in partnership with local cultural and religious groups, together with District Councils, Kent Police and the business community. There is something for everyone; events include: concerts, exhibitions, storytelling, workshops, open days, a festival day in Sittingbourne and the BME Achievement Awards.

To nominate someone for the BME Achievement Awards, visit the website:
www.kent.gov.uk/bmeawards

The award ceremony takes place on 30 October 2009, so you will need to get your nominations in as soon as possible!

For a full programme contact Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ or telephone 08458 247247.

Full details are available at:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/news/oct08-black-history-month.htm>

4. Asperger Syndrome – A Better Future – delivering the best care and support from diagnosis onwards – conference to be held on Tuesday, 24 November 2009 in Central London

The National Adult Autism Strategy, due at the end of this year, will hold local authorities legally responsible for providing support for autistic adults.

This Brookdale Care Conference organised by Community Care, will showcase best practice and examples on how professionals are overcoming the challenges of providing high quality support for people of all ages with Asperger Syndrome.

The prevalence of Autism is rising, Autism is now estimated to affect more than half a million people in the UK today; about 133,500 of them are under 18 (National Autism Society).

Children and adult transition teams need to provide appropriate support at the right time to ensure a better life for people with Asperger Syndrome.

For further information contact Community Care at updates@email.communitycare.co.uk or Events Producer Penny Macoustra by email ebookings@lexisnexis.co.uk or telephone 0208 652 4869.

5. BME Concern in celebration of Black History Month presents: Celebrating Diversity in the 21st Century – 20 October 2009

Woodville Halls, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU from 10.00am – 2.00pm

Colin Jackson, the former World Champion and current world record holder at the 110m



hurdles, will be the main speaker at Youth Motivation Day a half-day Black History Celebration aimed at getting young adults involved in the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games.

Other Events in Black History Month:

To help achieve their objectives of promoting diversity and encourage community cohesion amongst the youth, BME Concern will be offering workshops in Primary Schools in Gravesham on African Drumming and Dancing, African Storytelling 'Tales by Moonlight' and African Tie Dye.

For more information contact Anne Phillips, BME Concern, email Bmeconcern1@gmail.com or telephone 07983 473855.

6. Epilepsy research fundraising

Epilepsy HERE will be holding Christmas card selling events to raise money for organisations that carry out research into Epilepsy. They are:

- National Society for Epilepsy
- Epilepsy Research UK
- Epilepsy Action.

The events will be held at:

- St Peter's Methodist Church Hall, St Peter's Street, Canterbury on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 October 2009
- St Nicholas Church at St Nicholas at Wade and United Reform Church Middle Wall at Whitstable on Saturday 31 October 2009.

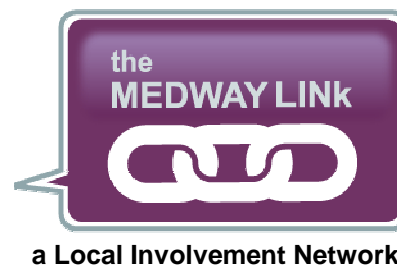
If you cannot attend but wish to support this cause, telephone 01227 360207 at any reasonable hour.

Consultations

1. Consultation on recruitment and selection process for Primary Care Trust (PCT) chairs

The Appointments Commission (AC) has been commissioned by the Department of Health to deliver a project that would explore with stakeholders potential options for strengthening local involvement in the appointment of key NHS public appointments. The project has focused on options to increase involvement within the current recruitment and selection process for PCT chair appointments. The consultation period commenced on 21 September 2009 and will last for four weeks, closing on Monday, 19 October 2009.

To request a full copy of the consultation brief contact: James Doughty, Policy Manager, Appointments Commission by email democraticengagement@appointments.org.uk or



telephone 0113 394 7991.

2. Single Equalities Scheme consultation

NHS West Kent is building on work which started in June 2008 by holding a formal consultation for its Single Equality Scheme (SES) which ends on 4 December 2009. This scheme will bring together their actions with regards to six equality strands: race, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion or belief. The approach will ensure NHS West Kent meets the statutory and legal duties in the scheme. Opportunities to get involved will be available on-line and via targeted and locality based stakeholder events and a range of networks and organisations will be contacted over this period.

For more information, contact Adam Lott, Head of Equality & Human Rights, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 376092, email Adam.lott@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website: http://www.westkentpct.nhs.uk/Share_your_point_of_view/Live_consultations/index.html

3. Department of Health seeks views on health and wellbeing

The Department of Health is preparing a guide for the local NHS to develop health and wellbeing services. They are looking more closely at how primary care can contribute to preventing ill-health and improving health and wellbeing. In particular, they want to identify high impact, affordable, interventions that will help them develop practical tools for those who plan and purchase services on your behalf. They would really value your input into this process. An on-line survey is available at the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=zh3FAG1nbh91b0cntlH9Jg_3d_3d

If you run out of space to respond or have any supporting documents / links you wish to send to them, please email pcsteam@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

For further information contact the Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, email pcsteam@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0207 210 4850.

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)