



News

1. Calling all new LINK Participants

Opportunities are available for you to find out more about your role as a LINK participant. Do come along and learn more about how you, as part of the LINK, can help to improve health and social care services in Medway. The event is being held:

Thursday, 12 March 2009
10.00am – 3.30pm
Princes Hall, Corn Exchange, Rochester, ME1 1LS

To book your place contact Kirsty on 07976 594541 / 01303 297050, email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or SMS Text: 07976 596913.

2. The final parts of the jigsaw

The Medway LINK is looking for volunteers with spare time to:

- Be part of a visiting team to NHS and social care premises
- Be part of a panel to decide what issues the LINK should investigate
- Represent the LINK on special interest groups.
- To become a LINK “mystery shopper” in relation to social care services.

Expenses will be paid to volunteers performing the above duties on behalf of the LINK.

To apply or find out more telephone 01634 821135, email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or SMS Text 07976 596913. Closing date for expressions of interest: 16 March 2009

3. Medway gets its first ton!

The Medway LINK’s first hundred participants have been signed up since it became a legal entity on 7 January of this year – these include individuals, community and voluntary sector groups.

Although this is small beer compared with the potential 250,000 people in Medway who are free to join, it is a good start. What appears to appeal to participants is that they can become involved at whichever level they feel comfortable with and can dip in and dip out when the fancy takes them – either to be passive recipients of information or to get a bit more involved

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when something of interest crops up. Opportunities for involvement are currently being invited within the LINK for participants to:

- Become “mystery shoppers” for social care services
- Be part of a pool of visitors to carry out visits to NHS or Social Care Premises as part of a LINK project
- Be part of a panel to help the LINK deal fairly with the many issues that will crop up between LINK events and to ensure that all voices get heard and not just those with influence and power.

It is in everyone’s interest to participate in the LINK so if you are interested or you belong to a group that would benefit from becoming part of the LINK, why not join today?

For information contact The Medway LINK, KMN, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01634 821135.

Visit the website to register as a participant at:
www.themedwaylink.co.uk

4. Last chance to comment on health standards

The LINK is cooperating with Medway Council’s Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit evidence as part of this year’s Annual Health Check.

The LINK has been collecting evidence from individuals and community groups on whether the NHS serving Medway is meeting nationally set standards. The period under review is the 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

If you have experienced health care in Medway or if your group has some collective evidence of the local NHS during the period in question there is still time to take part.

- Request a copy of the survey form to be sent to you by post:
Contact Graham Hills, KMN, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH, telephone 07976 594541 / 01634 821135, email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or SMS Text 07976 596913.
- On-line via
www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=dgl2k3DTGFY9_2bvvQOXIXLA_3d_3d



5. Living Well in Medway

The Citizen Advice Bureaux “Living Well” service works with Medway Council to help people to remain independent in their own homes. People can refer themselves, or be referred by others such as voluntary organisations or family members. Priority can be given to those who are discharged from a hospital / care setting and where immediate help is required. They will speak to a skilled adviser and, after a short assessment, they will agree an appropriate course of action. In addition to telephone enquiries, people can also have a face to face interview at various locations in Chatham, Gillingham, Rainham, Rochester, Strood and outlying villages.

For further information contact Living Well Medway, Chatham CAB, Under1roof, 5A New Road Avenue, Chatham, ME4 6BB, email info@livingwellinmedway.org.uk or livingwell@cabmedwayadvice.org.uk or telephone 01634 888199.

6. Fun and style at the ‘Black is Beautiful’ event

Saturday 28 February saw women heading to the ‘Black is Beautiful’ event in Gillingham. The event, which was jointly organised by the Medway Ethnic Minority Forum and the Medway LINK, had singing by the VOP Choir and Adelaide Mackenzie and style presentations by Potential U. Fashion and dietary advice seemed the most popular topic, although there were discussions around women’s role in society and how they can look after their inner self (not just their external appearance); a discussion led by Angela Asieba, Editor of Nubia Magazine. There was also good food, networking and new LINK participants recruited!

Upcoming events:

‘Eastern European Women’s Day’ - the event will take place on Saturday, 7 March 2009 at Christchurch, Luton Road, Chatham, ME4 5BT from 3.00pm until 6.00pm.

‘Be Yourself’ South East Asian Women’s Day’ - the event will take place on Saturday, 21 March 2009 at New Brompton College, Marlborough Road, Gillingham, ME7 5HT from 2.30pm until 5.30pm.

7. Sharing patient records in Medway

The NHS in Medway is rolling out a new Government initiative to enable NHS staff in different settings to share “summary” information about patients. This could include such things as recent medication and any allergies. Patients can register with a service called “HealthSpace” that will enable them to view information that is held in summary form about them. Significant safeguards have been put in place to assure patients’ privacy and confidentiality.

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For further information email Joanne.Stevens@medwaypct.nhs.uk or contact Kim Eaglestone, NHS Medway, 7-8 Ambley Green, Bailey Drive, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, ME8 0NE.

NHS Medway Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is available on 0800 014 1641

The NHS Care Records Service Information Line is available on 0845 603 8510 or visit the website:

www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk

8. Make a Difference – Stand for the Council of Governors

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust has officially announced it will be holding elections to the Council of Governors for the proposed Kent and Medway Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

There are 20 vacancies for Public Governors and 4 Staff Governors and the deadline for nomination papers to be received is 9 March 2009.

For further information and nomination forms contact Martine Nichols, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, 35 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4AX, email ftoffice@kmpt.nhs.uk or telephone 01732 520498.

9. £20.5m package to promote contraception

This additional funding is intended to give young people better access to contraception and raise awareness of the risks of unprotected sex.

This new support package will include:

- £7m for a media campaign promoting contraceptive choices
- £10m to support local health services to provide contraception at the right time in the right place
- £1m to support further education colleges to develop and expand on site sexual health services
- £2.5m to develop a healthy college programme to support services in meeting the Department of Health's 'You're Welcome' standards for provision of young people friendly services.

For further information contact the Department for Children, Schools and Families by



telephone 0870 000 2288, email info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or visit the website:
www.dcsf.gov.uk

10. General Pharmacy Council consultation - give your views

The Department of Health (DH) are seeking views on the proposals to create the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), the new regulator for pharmacy.

The DH has published a summary briefing on the consultation which outlines the major proposals contained in the draft Pharmacy Order 2009 which sets out the role, functions and powers of the GPhC, which will be set up in Great Britain in 2010. The establishment of the GPhC is a real opportunity for pharmacy to create a modern and responsive professional regulator that instils confidence in the public and commands the respect of the professions it regulates.

The DH are particularly interested in hearing your suggestions on how this could be achieved and have identified key consultation questions to help you structure your response.

For further information contact the Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or view the document at: www.psn.org.uk/data/files/Regulation/general_pharmaceutical_council_briefing.pdf

Events

1. FREE Media Training Workshops for Voluntary Groups

Kent Volunteers are holding three Media Training Workshops covering topics such as:

- How to find a news story that will get you free publicity
- Writing press releases that get results
- What to give the newspaper and radio reporter
- How to give a great radio interview

The dates and venues are:

- 6 April 2009 – Ashford International Hotel, Ashford

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- 11 May 2009 – King's Hill Conference Centre, West Malling
- 1 June 2009 – Oakwood Park, Maidstone

All courses run from 9.00am to 4.30pm, places are limited so early booking is advised.

For information contact Kent Volunteers by email margaret.sherriff@kent.gov.uk or telephone 01622 694844.

2. Personalising support and care across health and social care

An event for health, social care and the third sector staff involved in personal care planning will take place on 1 April 2009 at King's Hill Conference Centre, 6 Alexander Grove, West Malling, ME19 4GR from 9.30am – 5.00pm.

To register for this event contact Anita Buckley, South East Coast NHS by email Anita.Buckley@southeastcoast.nhs.uk or telephone 01293 778899.

3. Current ethical dilemmas

A lecture by Professor Vivienne Nathanson, Director of Professional Activities in Health, British Medical Association will be given on Tuesday, 28 April 2009 at Canterbury Christchurch University's Broadstairs Campus. Admission free.

For further information contact Samantha Hamilton, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Campus, Canterbury, CT1 1QU, telephone 01227 782379, email health.enquiries@canterbury.ac.uk or visit the website @ www.canterbury.ac.uk/events

Consultations

1. "Calling all dads" and anybody who is in a fathering role

Dads are really important to their children and can be a massive force for good in their children's lives, whether biological dads, step-dads or other father figures. Medway Council

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wants to find out what you think of local services and how they can better support you to be the best dad you can be.

You can help by responding to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 6TR, telephone 01634 306000 or by completing the online survey at: www.medway.gov.uk/parentingstrategy_survey

All responses are anonymous.

2. Pharmacy changes near to you?

The Kent Primary Care Agency is seeking comments on the following application to open a new pharmacy:

- Delmergate Ltd has applied to open a pharmacy in the vicinity of Victory Pier, Gillingham. Comments can be made direct to the Kent Primary Care Agency or via The Medway LINK, KMN, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH, email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01634 821135.

In addition, approval has been given to the relocation of Euro Pharmacy Ltd's pharmacy from 17 Duncan Road, Gillingham to the proposed new health centre, Balmoral Gardens, Gillingham.

For further information contact Linda Gibbs, Kent Primary Care Agency, 11 Station Road, Maidstone, ME14 1QH, email linda.gibbs@kpc.a.nhs.uk or telephone 01622 655134.

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 594541

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