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# LINK activities - find out more, get involved

**To register your interest or to find out more about any of the activities listed here, contact the Kent LINK office (details on the back page).**

## 1. Kent LINK Community Engagement Event - Swanley

The Kent LINK's latest Community Engagement Event was held in Swanley on 14 December 2011. The theme was the support and care provided to older people, whether they are living in their own home, in a care home or temporarily staying in a hospital bed.

In the afternoon session, participants chose to attend one of three workshops and within each workshop were given three questions to discuss and debate. The workshops produced almost 180 comments and suggestions, so only a fraction of the responses can be given here.

One workshop looked at the support and training given to care staff assisting people to remain safe in their own homes. Comments included the need to ensure that the support was built around individuals, focus on meeting social needs as well as 'care tasks' and the need to have only a limited number of people going in to help someone (an example of this included 19 different people assisting someone over a 10 day period!).

The second workshop looked at the care provided to older people in hospital. Suggestions included the need for each ward to have a 'Patient Advice and Liaison Service' style person to ensure that patients' needs are met and for improvements in communication to be made - perhaps putting communication processes on some kind of mandatory or statutory footing.

The third workshop looked at the forthcoming LINK project on the standards provided in residential care homes in the county. Participants suggested that the LINK's research should focus on residents' states of mind, the quality of the interaction between residents and staff and the links that the care home has made with external groups and organisations.

Full lists of comments and suggestions will be passed to the relevant LINK Project Leads. Each workshop's suggestions and ideas can then be included in the project work.

If you would like more information on this event, contact the Kent LINK.

### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Clive Brock

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596410

Email: [clive@kentlink.org](mailto:clive@kentlink.org)

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## 2. Monitoring the quality of residential homes across Kent

### **Get involved!**

A new Kent LINK project is starting in January 2012 looking at the quality of residential homes across the county. This follows on from a similar project in East Kent during 2011.

If you would like more information or to get involved, contact the Kent LINK.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Louise Murrell  
Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913  
Email: [louise@kentlink.org](mailto:louise@kentlink.org)

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### **3. Have your say on community health services in Kent**

***Get involved!***

A Kent Community Health Virtual Network Group of the Kent LINK is being set up to support the External Representatives who sit on Kent Community Health NHS Trust's Board.

The Group will be involved in discussions about issues, service changes, consultations and much more but as this is a virtual group, members are not expected to attend meetings.

If you would like more information or to join the Group, contact the Kent LINK.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Louise Murrell  
Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913  
Email: [louise@kentlink.org](mailto:louise@kentlink.org)

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### **4. Have you used an NHS hospital, a clinic or mental health service in the past six months?**

***Get involved!***

The Kent LINK is gathering patient and carer experiences about NHS hospitals, clinics and mental health services in Kent. If you have had an experience of these services, either as a patient or a carer in the past six months, the LINK would like to hear from you.

The LINK has published two questionnaires - one for hospital / clinic services and one for mental health services. The questionnaires are available in hard copy on request via the contact details below or visit the websites:

- Hospital / clinic services questionnaire: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5Q66KBY>
- Mental health services questionnaire: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/52NJ257>

The Kent LINK will use the information gathered to comment on the quality of patient and carer experiences of local services.

The closing date for submitting completed questionnaires is Thursday, 31 May 2012.

For more information, contact the Kent LINK.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Heather Wells  
Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07814 427281  
Email: [heather@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:heather@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

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## 5. Dover Primary Care Nursing Team

### **Get involved!**

An issue has been raised to the Priorities Panel concerning patient experiences with the Dover Primary Care Nursing Team.

The Kent LINK has been informed that Kent Community Health NHS Trust has ensured the necessary changes and improvements have been undertaken and has been working with the Dover Primary Care Nursing Team to improve patient experience. Kent Community Health NHS Trust would welcome the views of LINK participants as to whether you consider improvements have been achieved for patients within the Dover locality.

Please send any comments you may have to the Kent LINK by Friday, 27 January 2012.

### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260742

Email: [steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

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## 6. Feedback on Kent LINK website

### **Get involved!**

As part of ongoing developments, the Host Organisation for the Kent LINK is looking for feedback on the Kent LINK's website ([www.thekentlink.co.uk](http://www.thekentlink.co.uk)). Please take a few minutes to complete this quick online survey and have your say at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/KLINKWeb](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KLINKWeb)

All survey respondents will be entered into a draw to win a £20 gift voucher.

The online survey will close on Wednesday, 29 February 2012.

### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Becky Barraclough

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596797

Email: [rebecca@kentlink.org](mailto:rebecca@kentlink.org)

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## 7. Kent and Medway LINK's Hygiene and Cleanliness in Hospitals report - now available

### **Update**

The Kent and Medway LINK's report into the findings of the recent Hygiene and Cleanliness in Hospitals Project held in Kent and Medway is now available.

To view this report online, please visit the following link:

[http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/assets/files/Publications/Hygiene\\_Cleanliness\\_in\\_Hospitals\\_2011.pdf](http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/assets/files/Publications/Hygiene_Cleanliness_in_Hospitals_2011.pdf)

If you would like a copy of the report to be posted to you, contact the Kent LINK.

### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Becky Alvey

Telephone: 01303 297050

Email: [becky@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:becky@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

## 8. Mental Health Network update

### **Get Involved!**

The LINK needs more External Representatives to join Local Planning and Monitoring Groups. These Groups meet bi-monthly and consist of a variety of attendees all local to the particular meeting ranging from service users, carers, service providers, staff from the NHS and Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust and, where possible, commissioners.

The purpose of these Groups is for the participants to meet and collectively discuss and evaluate the services currently provided, learn about any new services on offer, talk about any problems / issues locally and see what can be done about them, either by addressing the problems themselves or raising them as issues to commissioners.

The Groups report into the Joint Commissioning Board (JCB) on a quarterly basis, where they are able to raise one issue per locality, presented by either a carer or service user. The JCB will endeavour to look at the particular issue and aim to find a solution, make a response or investigate further where appropriate.

By joining a local Group, you will be able to report back to the wider LINK on the progress made by the LINK's Mental Health Network.

External Representatives are required in the following areas:

- Canterbury
- Swale
- Thanet
- South West Kent
- Maidstone
- Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley.

For more information on how to join a group, contact the Kent LINK.

### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Cate Boland

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596709

Email: [cate@kentlink.org](mailto:cate@kentlink.org)

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## 9. Have you experienced the services at Tunbridge Wells Hospital?

### **Get Involved!**

Two organisations have reported their concerns about the experiences of some older people at Tunbridge Wells Hospital.

If you have attended the hospital and have a story to share, the Kent LINK would like to hear from you. Your information will be used to advise Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust of any issues patients at the hospital are experiencing and assist them through the 'teething problems' and improve patient experience and safety.

Please send any comments you wish to make in writing to the Kent LINK using the following address: The Kent LINK, KMN, FREEPOST NAT 17761, Folkestone, CT19 4BR.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Cate Boland

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596709

Email: [cate@kentlink.org](mailto:cate@kentlink.org)

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## **10. Deaf community welcome to 'Have your say in your community' events**

### ***Get involved!***

The Kent LINK and Kent County Council are working in partnership to involve people from the deaf community to influence the health and social care services they receive.

Two events will be held in Kent and aim to involve as many people as possible.

Times and venues are to be confirmed. Further details will be available by Tuesday, 31 January 2012.

For more information, contact Jo Frazer, OPPD, Families and Social Care, Kent County Council, Brenchley House, 123 - 135 Week Street, Maidstone, ME14 1RF or:

Email: [Jo.frazer@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.frazer@kent.gov.uk)

Tel: 01622 696235

Mobile: 07912 597221

Fax: 01622 221751

Text: 08458 247905.

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## **11. New start date and more funding announced for Local HealthWatch**

### ***Update***

Further details on the establishment of Local HealthWatch bodies, including a new start date and extra funding, have been set out by the Health Secretary, Andrew Lansley.

Following feedback received from Local Authorities and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), they now have until April 2013 to work with local health experts and volunteers to establish Local HealthWatch. Local HealthWatch is set to replace LINKs and will be the local consumer champion for patients, service users and the public.

In addition, more funding will also be made available to Local Authorities to establish Local HealthWatch and for the 75 HealthWatch Pathfinders, of which Kent is one.

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Local Authorities will need to continue to provide a LINK and funding for this continues to be allocated as part of the Local Government Formula Grant in 2012 / 2013.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Becky Barraclough

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596797

Email: [rebecca@kentlink.org](mailto:rebecca@kentlink.org)

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## **12. National LINK Project**

### ***Information***

The Care Quality Commission is currently running a national project (of which the Kent LINK is taking part) looking at the type of information gathered by LINKs and how this could be used after the transition to Local HealthWatch.

A meeting was held on 7 December 2011 where LINKs discussed topics such as draft protocols and guidance.

For the notes from this meeting or more information, contact the Kent LINK.

### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Heather Wells

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07814 427281

Email: [heather@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:heather@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

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## **13. LINK Governors' Group - update**

### ***Dates for your diary***

Governors' Group meetings are open to the public to observe the process. The next meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, 18 January 2012 from 10.00am to 1.00pm  
Upstairs Room, Salvation Army Centre, 74 - 80 Union Street, Maidstone, ME14 1ED
- Wednesday, 15 February 2012 from 10.00am to 1.00pm  
Osborne Room, Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way, Lenham, ME17 2QT.

All previous Governors' Group meeting papers are available to view on the Kent LINK website: [www.thekentlink.co.uk/kent-link-governors-group.html](http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/kent-link-governors-group.html)

The agenda for future meetings will be available on the Kent LINK website one week prior to the meeting date and on request from the LINK.

Please note that expenses cannot be claimed for attendance at these meetings in accordance with Kent LINK Governance.

### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260742

Email: [steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

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## **14. LINK Priorities Panel - update**

### ***Issues and date for your diary***

The Priorities Panel are currently reviewing issues around:

- Transport to Pembury Hospital
- NHS managers restricting access to scans and tests

- Reduced staffing hours at birthing units, minor injury units and midwifery units in Dover
- Changes to stoma / continence prescription process
- Appropriate labelling of medicine
- GPs prescribing alternative therapies for back pain.

If you have experiences of any issues listed above, any health / social care services which you would like to share or to make a comment as to what action should be taken, please contact the LINK.

Priorities Panel meetings are open to the public to observe the process. The next meeting is scheduled for:

- Wednesday, 1 February 2012 from 1.00pm to 3.30pm  
Salvation Army Centre, 74 - 80 Union Street, Maidstone, ME14 1ED.

All previous Priorities Panel meeting papers are available to view on the Kent LINK website: <http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/priorities-panel.html>

The agenda for future meetings will be available on the website one week prior to the meeting date and on request from the LINK.

Please note that expenses cannot be claimed for attendance at these meetings in accordance with Kent LINK Governance.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260742

Email: [steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

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## **15. LINK External Representatives - meetings 'Round up'**

### ***Meetings update***

The Kent LINK External Representatives have supported the LINK recently at the following meetings:

- Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB)  
28 September 2011 - Roger Kendall
- Dementia Strategy Group  
25 October 2011 - Brian Davis
- Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust  
26 October 2011 - Jim Hancock
- Thanet Voluntary and Community Sector Forum, Disability  
28 October 2011 - Roger Kendall.

If you wish to read the full reports on all the meetings attended please visit the Kent LINK website: <http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/external-representatives.html>

We would very much like to hear from you if you have any experience in these areas, good or bad, and would especially like to hear from people who wish to get involved.

If you would like hard copy documents of any reports, contact the LINK.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260742

Email: [steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

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**16. LINK Project Development Workers - updates**

The Kent LINK Project Development Workers have supported the LINK in the last month at the following meetings:

***East Kent - Louise Murrell***

- Promoted the LINK at the Dover District Voluntary and Community Sector Network meeting in Deal
- Supported the LINK's Mental Health Network Group to develop action plans for each of the four workstreams they are taking forward
- Promoted the LINK at a Migrant Helpline event in Dover
- Supported a LINK Community Engagement Event in Swanley
- Facilitated the first meeting of the LINK's Polish Community Ambassadors
- Attended a meeting between East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, Kent Community Health NHS Trust and the LINK to discuss joint working in the future.

If you wish to find out more about any of these meetings, contact Louise direct.

The Kent LINK would very much like to hear from you if you have any experiences of health and social care services in East Kent, good or bad, and would especially like to hear from anyone who wishes to get more involved.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Louise Murrell

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913

Email: [louise@kentlink.org](mailto:louise@kentlink.org)

***Mid Kent - Cate Boland***

- Met with representatives from the deaf community and Kent County Council, and arranged for them to meet with East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust
- Attended a Royal Association for Deaf people meeting
- Met with representatives from Kent County Council regarding opportunities for public involvement
- Facilitated a meeting of the LINK's Mental Health Network Group
- Promoted the LINK at the Older People's Forum in Tunbridge Wells
- Met with Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust to discuss the actions arising from the mental health report

- Worked with Polish Community Ambassadors
- Met with Commissioner of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services to discuss the changes to the services
- Visited individuals wishing to become more involved with the LINK.

If you wish to find out more about any of these meetings, contact Cate direct.

The Kent LINK would very much like to hear from you if you have any experiences of health and social care services in mid Kent, good or bad, and would especially like to hear from anyone who wishes to get more involved.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Cate Boland

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596709

Email: [cate@kentlink.org](mailto:cate@kentlink.org)

**West Kent - Clive Brock**

- Assisted colleagues from Kent County Council (KCC) with publicising World Aids Day to callers and staff at the Gravesham Civic Centre
- Met with the Patient Public Involvement Manager at Darent Valley Hospital as part of a series of regular meetings to ensure that Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust and the Kent LINK are informed of any issues that may arise
- Met with a KCC Manager about the Council's current review of its public involvement and engagement policy
- Met with members of the Mental Health Network Group; the Group was focussed on issues involving carers of people with mental ill health
- Met with members of the Care of Older People in Hospitals Project Group. This is still a new Group and we are discussing how best to tackle the issue of finding out the views of patients (and their carers) about their stay in hospital
- Attended the Patient Experience Committee meeting at Darent Valley Hospital
- Attended the LINK's Community Engagement Event held in Swanley.

If you wish to find out more about any of these meetings, contact Clive direct.

The Kent LINK would very much like to hear from you if you have any experiences of health and social care services in west Kent, good or bad, and would especially like to hear from anyone who wishes to get more involved.

**LINK Contact:**

Name: Clive Brock

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596410

Email: [clive@kentlink.org](mailto:clive@kentlink.org)

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**Further enquiries relating to the above information should be addressed to the Kent LINK, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Business Park, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH, email [info@kentlink.org](mailto:info@kentlink.org) or telephone 01303 297050.**

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## Notices – for action or information

*If you are interested in any of the subjects covered in this section of the Bulletin, please contact the agencies listed directly.*

### 1. Get involved with your Ambulance Service

#### **Dates for your diary**

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAMB) is hosting two days of workshops, training and discussions on Monday, 23 and Tuesday, 24 January 2012. The workshops will involve local people in helping the Trust to develop an Inclusion Strategy and implement the national Equality Delivery System (EDS).

The workshops will take place at Stanhill Court Hotel, Horley, near Gatwick. The Trust will pay travel expenses and, if you wish, provide overnight accommodation at the venue.

#### **Day one**

##### **Developing an Inclusion Strategy**

This interactive session will look at a draft inclusion strategy developed through a previous consultation and seek your feedback on its fitness for purpose.

##### **Equality Delivery System (EDS) training**

This session will provide an introduction to the EDS and how you and your community can work with the Trust to improve accessibility of their services for all communities.

#### **Day two**

##### **Grading the Trust and setting objectives**

Following day one's training on EDS this workshop will look at grading how well the Trust is currently performing and identify areas for improvement.

For more information or to book your place, contact Louise Hutchinson, Patient and Public Involvement and Experience Lead, South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, 40-42 Friars Walk, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2XW, telephone 01273 897805, email [louise.hutchinson@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:louise.hutchinson@secamb.nhs.uk) or visit the website: [www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

If you will be attending the workshops, please let your LINK contact know in order that we may help you with any reporting requirements after the event.

#### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Louise Murrell

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913

Email: [louise@kentlink.org](mailto:louise@kentlink.org)

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### 2. South East Health Quality Learning Disability Forum

#### **Get Involved!**

The next South East Health Quality Forum is meeting on Thursday, 26 January 2012 from 10.00am to 3.30pm at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ.

The forum is to promote the health of people with learning disabilities across the South East.

For more information or to book your place, contact Beth Peal, Medway Learning Disability Partnership Board, Medway Council, Adult Social Care, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR, telephone 01634 337569, email [bethan.peal@medway.gov.uk](mailto:bethan.peal@medway.gov.uk) or visit the website: [www.valuingmedwaypeople.org.uk](http://www.valuingmedwaypeople.org.uk)

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### 3. Sheppey fun day for disabled children and their families

#### ***Date for your diary!***

On Saturday, 21 January 2012 from 11.00am to 3.00pm, 4us2, a new parent led charity, will be holding a fun day for disabled people aged 0 - 25, their siblings, parents and carers.

The event will be held at the Sheppey Healthy Living Centre, Off the Broadway, Sheerness, ME12 1HH.

For more information or to book your place, contact Jess, 4us2, Wind Chimes, Reynolds Close, Mickleburgh Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 4DS, email [info@4us2.org](mailto:info@4us2.org) or telephone 01227 741748.

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### 4. Free Learning Disability Health Observatory Event

#### ***Date for your diary***

The Learning Disability Health Observatory is running a free, all day event on Thursday, 22 March 2012 from 10.00am to 3.00pm at The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, CB2 1RP.

The aims of the event for the Learning Disability Health Observatory are to:

- Inform people with learning disabilities what health information is available
- Ask people how they think this information can be best used
- Ask people what other health information would be useful for the Learning Disability Health Observatory to collect.

For more information and to access an application form, visit the website:

[http://themedwaylink.co.uk/assets/files/Family\\_Carers\\_event\\_info\\_and\\_application\\_form.pdf](http://themedwaylink.co.uk/assets/files/Family_Carers_event_info_and_application_form.pdf)

Completed forms should be sent as an email attachment to [Pauline.white@ndti.org.uk](mailto:Pauline.white@ndti.org.uk) or sent by post to the National Development Team for Inclusion, Montreux House, 18a James Street West, Bath, BA1 2BT.

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### 5. Your chance to influence the future - have your say on health research

#### ***Get involved!***

The Kent and Medway Research Network, which is part of the NHS, has been in existence for over three years. During that time, the Network has supported researchers across Kent who are looking for new and improved treatments for a variety of different diseases through clinical trials.

They are now asking for your input to help decide and prioritise what sort of studies should be encouraged and supported in Kent, and want to listen to what you have to say about which conditions you think are priorities for health research in Kent and Medway.

To give your views, you can complete a short online questionnaire:

[http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/about\\_us/ccrn/kent\\_medway/PPI/Health%20Research%20priority%20survey](http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/about_us/ccrn/kent_medway/PPI/Health%20Research%20priority%20survey)

The survey is completely anonymous, although ideally they would like you to include your gender, age group and whereabouts in the county you live so they can see if there are variations between different groups.

For more information, contact Dr Margaret Hall, Preston Hall Hospital, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, ME20 7NJ, telephone 01622 710161, email [margarethall@nhs.net](mailto:margarethall@nhs.net) or visit the website: <http://www.researchkm.nihr.ac.uk/default.aspx>

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## **6. Kent Health Commission**

### ***Information***

The Kent Health Commission has been set up to produce a vision for health and social care in Kent and will use new national reforms to help reshape health and social care.

Membership for the Kent Health Commission includes Kent County Council, together with Dover District Council, Dover MP, Charlie Elphicke, local GPs, independent think-tank Localis and communications consultancy, MHP.

It will examine how GPs, local government and health and social care commissioners can work together to:

- Redesign Kent's health and social care services according to local need
- Implement the reforms to health and social care in a way that improves service quality and health outcomes for the residents of Kent
- Harness local expertise to improve services in a way that best meets local needs
- Join up services in the interests of patients, enabling easy access to the services they want
- Empower local health professionals, including GPs, to develop better services that are more accountable to local people
- Forge links between different local health and social care providers, enhancing productive working relationships in the interests of patients
- Ensure that new commissioning organisations, such as GP's Clinical Commissioning Groups, have the right support to implement changes
- Identify and spread examples of good local practice.

It will produce a vision for health and social care in Kent and will engage with the public and health professionals during 2012 on how this can be implemented.

If you are a patient, receive health services at home or in the community or are a health professional, you can provide feedback through Kent County Council's website:

[www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Becky Barraclough

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596797

Email: [rebecca@kentlink.org](mailto:rebecca@kentlink.org)

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## **7. A toolkit for mental health and football now available**

### ***Information***

The Football Association and Time to Change have produced a toolkit for mental health and football.

Time to Change is a national campaign to promote the inclusion of people with mental health problems.

The online toolkit includes top tips, videos and best practice guides. It contains:

- An introduction to mental health
- Information for grassroots clubs
- A guide to setting up new sport and mental health projects
- A guide to delivering new mental health projects
- Additional sources of help and information.

For more information, visit the website: [www.TheFA.com/timetochange](http://www.TheFA.com/timetochange)

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## **8. Six ways to support young, disabled people into work**

A new book has been published, based on research-evidence from the 'Getting a Life Project' and 'Aspirations for Life Campaign', which shows how to support young, disabled people into work.

A free electronic copy of this book is available at:

<http://www.hsapress.co.uk/media/16982/webgettingajobbook.pdf>

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## **9. Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust - new Chief Executive appointed**

### ***Information***

Angela McNab was appointed as the new Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust Chief Executive on 19 December 2011.

Following a rigorous selection process which included staff, service users, carers and external stakeholders, Angela McNab has accepted the position and will join the Trust on 1 April 2012.

For more information, contact Adrian Lowther, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, 35 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4AX, telephone 01732 520441, email [adrian.lowther@kmpt.nhs.uk](mailto:adrian.lowther@kmpt.nhs.uk) or visit the website: [www.kmpt.nhs.uk](http://www.kmpt.nhs.uk)

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## **10. Kent County Council - exciting opportunities for the voluntary and**

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## community sector

### **Information**

As part of Kent County Council's (KCC) medium plan, 'Bold Steps' sets out how the Council will be reforming the way they buy in services. 'The Community Right to Challenge' enables voluntary and community organisations to express an interest in running local authority services.

The Community Right to Challenge process will be in place from 4 April 2012.

Further details will be available on the KCC website shortly.

For more information, contact Elaine Flynn, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ, telephone 0300 3335915, email [Elaine.flynn@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.flynn@kent.gov.uk) or visit the website: [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

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## 11. Macmillan Cancer Support seeks your help

### **Information**

The Government's Welfare Reform Bill is currently being debated in Parliament and Macmillan Cancer Support is asking for your help to oppose some of the Bill's proposals.

In the Bill, the Government proposes to:

- 1) Change the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) by doubling the period before someone can receive this benefit from three to six months
- 2) Change the entitlement to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) so that people not considered severely ill will only receive this support for one year. After this time, support will be dependent on financial circumstances and people will lose the benefit if their partner earns more than £149 per week
- 3) Change the eligibility rules for ESA so patients who receive their treatment by oral chemotherapy or radiotherapy may have to undergo an assessment and job interview practice in order to receive this benefit. Patients having non-oral chemotherapy are regarded, by the Department for Work and Pensions, as being 'severely ill' and therefore receive ESA automatically. The side-effects of oral chemotherapy and radiotherapy can be just as physically and psychologically debilitating as non oral chemotherapy, yet the benefits system treats these patients differently.

Macmillan asks people to sign a petition to present to Government to highlight the negative financial consequences of these proposals.

This petition can be accessed from the Macmillan website: [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

For more information, contact Macmillan Cancer Support, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UQ, telephone 020 7840 7840 or visit the website: [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

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## 12. NHS Trust Board Meetings

**Dates for your diary**

**South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**

Monday, 30 January 2012 at 10.00am. The venue is yet to be confirmed.

For more information, contact South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, Kent Office, Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, ME17 4BG, telephone 01622 747010, email [enquiries@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@secamb.nhs.uk) or visit the website: [www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

**Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust**

Thursday, 26 January 2012 at 9.30am, Large Boardroom, St. Martin's Hospital, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, CT1 1AZ.

Thursday, 1 March 2012 at 9.30am, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, 35 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4AX.

For more information, contact Val Woodin, St Martin's Hospital, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, CT1 1AZ, telephone 01227 812205, email [val.woodin@kmpt.nhs.uk](mailto:val.woodin@kmpt.nhs.uk) or visit the website: [www.kmpt.nhs.uk](http://www.kmpt.nhs.uk)

**NHS Kent and Medway**

Wednesday, 25 January 2012 from 9.30am to 1.30pm in Meeting Room 1, The River Centre, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE.

For more information, contact NHS Kent and Medway, Brook House, John Wilson Business Park, Reeves Way, Chestfield, Whitstable, CT5 3DD, telephone 01227 795050, email [easternandcoastalkent@nhs.net](mailto:easternandcoastalkent@nhs.net) or visit the website: [www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk](http://www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk)

**Kent Community Health NHS Trust**

Thursday, 26 January 2012 from 10.00am to 1.00pm at East Malling Conference Centre, New Road, East Malling, Maidstone, ME19 6BJ.

This meeting will be attended by Cate Jackson and Tom Maddison, LINK External Representatives on Kent Community Health NHS Trust's Board.

For more information, contact Karen Edmunds, Head of Patient Experience and Public Involvement, Communication and Engagement Team, Kent Community Health NHS Trust, Trinity House, 110/120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Park, Kennington, Ashford, TN25 4AZ telephone 01233 667816, email [karen.edmunds@kentcht.nhs.uk](mailto:karen.edmunds@kentcht.nhs.uk) or visit the website: [www.kentcht.nhs.uk](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk)

**Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust**

Thursday 26 January 2012 at 9.00am at the Trust Headquarters, Level 4, Darent Valley Hospital, Darenth Wood Road, Dartford, DA2 8DA.

Thursday, 23 February 2012 at 9.00am at the Trust Headquarters, Level 4, Darent Valley Hospital, Darenth Wood Road, Dartford, DA2 8DA.

For more information, contact Kevin Rowan, Associate Director of Corporate Development, Darent Valley Hospital, Darenth Wood Road, Dartford, DA2 8DA, telephone 01322 428150, email [kevin.rowan@dvh.nhs.uk](mailto:kevin.rowan@dvh.nhs.uk) or visit the website: [www.dvh.nhs.uk](http://www.dvh.nhs.uk)

**Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust**

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Wednesday, 25 January 2012 at Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, ME16 9QQ.

Wednesday, 28 March 2012 at Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4QJ.

The times for both meeting are yet to be confirmed.

For more information, contact Sharon Chapman, Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, ME16 9QQ, telephone 01622 226411, email [sharon.chapman2@nhs.net](mailto:sharon.chapman2@nhs.net) or visit the website: [www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk)

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## Consultations - have your say

### 1. New pharmacy application - Burham / Eccles, near Maidstone

**Consultation: Response to Kent LINK by Friday, 3 February 2012**

An application has been received by Kent Primary Care Agency for a new Pharmacy in the Burham / Eccles area. Before the application can be considered, the Local Pharmaceutical Committee requires the rurality of the area to be defined.

Comments on whether the area is, whole or in part, rural in nature must be submitted to Kent Primary Care Agency by Friday, 17 February 2012.

If you would like the Kent LINK to make comments to Kent Primary Care Agency, contact Louise Murrell by Friday, 3 February 2012.

A map is available upon request from the Kent LINK.

#### **LINK Contact:**

Name: Louise Murrell

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913

Email: [louise@kentlink.org](mailto:louise@kentlink.org)

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### 2. Kent and Medway Integrated Prison Substance Misuse Service Specification consultation

**Consultation: Response by Monday, 13 February 2012**

Kent and Medway Drug and Alcohol Action Team's (KDAAT / MDAAT) are proposing to commission a new combined drug and alcohol service within Kent and Medway prisons and the Dover Immigration Removal Centre.

The service will be managed by one provider under one contract, but may be delivered with support from a number of providers including those in the local voluntary and community sector through subcontracting arrangements.

The service will have a greater focus on reducing reoffending, recovery and reintegration. It will include advice, information and brief interventions through to specialist treatment and referral back into community services, where required.

This consultation will close on Monday, 13 February 2012 at 5.00pm.

Documents are available at: [www.kdaat.co.uk](http://www.kdaat.co.uk)

For more information or to get involved, contact Kate Tree Cooper, Family Services Development Officer, Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team, 3rd Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, ME14 7SP, telephone 01633 221676, email [kdaat@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kdaat@kent.gov.uk) or visit the website: [www.kdaat.co.uk](http://www.kdaat.co.uk)

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### 3. The Government's New Disability Strategy

#### **Consultation: Response by Friday, 9 March 2012**

A new discussion document called 'Fulfilling Potential' has been published regarding the Government's plans for a new cross-government Disability Strategy. The discussion document wants to find out what different people and groups think should be included in the new Disability Strategy.

The Government wants the Strategy to cover many areas, including human rights, jobs, health, housing, schools, colleges, hate crime, discrimination and how people are involved in making decisions in their local area etc. The Government would like to hear from disabled people and the people and organisations that support them.

The discussion document is available in both easy-read and full length versions at: <http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/odi-projects/fulfilling-potential.php/>

The closing date for responses is Friday, 9 March 2012 by 5.00pm.

If you have questions about this discussion document, contact the Disability Strategy Team, email [fulfilling.potential@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fulfilling.potential@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone 020 7340 4000.

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## Expenses

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

*If you are attending a LINK Event and are able to offer transport to another attendee it would be greatly appreciated. The LINK is unable to accept any responsibility or liability for such an arrangement, but it will act as a facilitator to pass on details. Please contact us for further information.*

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## **Contact Information**

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

KMN, Unit 24 Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH

Tel: 01303 297050

Email: [info@kentlink.org](mailto:info@kentlink.org)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.00pm

(Answer phone available out of hours)

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