



News

1. What's going on in the LINK?

a) LINK's AGM: a date for your diary

The LINK's annual meeting this year will be held from 10.00am to 1.00pm on Wednesday, 26 May 2010 at the Village Hotel, Castle View, Maidstone, ME14 3AQ. We have chosen Maidstone for this year's venue – last year it was Ashford. The annual meeting is LINK participants' opportunity to have their say on such matters as the LINK's Annual Report, its work programme for the coming year and any proposed changes to the way the LINK does its business.

If you would like to attend the AGM, contact the KMN office by email at info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01303 297050. Please advise any dietary or special requirements you may have for the day when booking your place.

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

b) Volunteers required

As the LINK's activities continue to increase there is a need for more willing volunteers (expenses are paid!) to take on the roles of:

- LINK Authorised Visitors
- Mystery Shoppers
- LINK Representatives on external NHS and social care commissioning and service provider groups
- Members of LINK panels

If you have some time to spare and want to get a bit more involved in LINK activities, contact us by email at info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01303 297050.

c) Elayne is leaving

Elayne Oxley, our LINK Development Worker for West Kent, is leaving us at the end of March. Elayne has worked tirelessly in putting the LINK on the map in West Kent and will be sorely missed. She has led the LINK's project on older people's day centres and its review of stroke services. Elayne will be staying in the field of social care and will be working with carers in her new vocation and we wish her well.

Until we can find a suitable replacement for Elayne, our Development Workers, Cate Boland and Louise Murrell, will ensure that West Kent is not neglected.

d) Tonbridge hosts the LINK

The quarterly events of the LINK are one of the ways LINK participants can hold to



account those responsible for its governance and those dealing with participants' issues. Over 80 LINK participants, some representing LINK participant organisations, exercised their rights at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge on 25 February 2010.

The other purpose of LINK quarterly meetings is to provide information for LINK participants and opportunities to debate and influence some of the key issues affecting health and social care services in the county.

The key topics in Tonbridge were the 'Total Place' project and the hospital car parking consultation.

'Total Place' is all about getting our public services a bit more joined up. In health and social care this is a big issue because key services which need to be joined up, such as health, social care and housing are administered by different authorities. The buzz in the room when this was being discussed across some eleven tables was palpable and you could tell this was something on which most people had an opinion and a desire to get something done. The presentations on this item and the feedback from participants appears on the LINK website at:

- www.thekentlink.org.uk/assets/files/Quarterly%20Events/Total_Place_Presentation_1_Jay_Edwins.pdf
- www.thekentlink.org.uk/assets/files/Quarterly%20Events/Total_Place_Presentation_2_Caroline_Davis.pdf
- www.thekentlink.org.uk/assets/files/Quarterly%20Events/Total_Place_Responses_March_2010.pdf

Another topic that always encourages heated debate is the way hospitals charge for car parking. The LINK obtained a concession from the Government to extend their consultation on this subject. As well as being discussed at the Tonbridge event, the LINK has sought views from the wider LINK online and through a paper questionnaire.

Copies of the presentation, report and workshop notes can be found online at:

- www.thekentlink.org.uk/assets/files/Quarterly%20Events/Car_Parking_Consultation_Presentation.pdf
- www.thekentlink.org.uk/assets/files/Quarterly%20Events/Car_Parking_Consultation_Debate_Responses.pdf
- www.thekentlink.org.uk/assets/files/Quarterly%20Events/Car_Parking_Consultation_LINK_Responses.pdf

e) Hospital hygiene and cleanliness

LINK Authorised Visitor, Hazel Brain, demonstrated at the Tonbridge event how she and her fellow LINK Visitors are observing, sampling for 'bacteria' and checking chlorine levels in cleaning water used to disinfect front line ward areas. All hospitals in Kent and Medway have now been visited, with the exception of hospitals within the Maidstone



and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust who have measures in place to protect the spread of the norvo virus, commonly referred to as the 'winter vomiting virus'. We are hopeful of gaining access shortly to complete the project and publish our findings.

f) *Transport to hospitals*

This Bulletin trails a number of events throughout the county as part of the LINK's 'Access (transport) to Health Services' project. Transport is one of those areas where Total Place has a 'place'. Various agencies criss-cross the county helping patients and users of various services. This is your opportunity to help come up with ideas and contribute to this county-wide debate.

g) *Christchurch teams up with the LINK*

Canterbury Christchurch University is joining up with the LINK to devise ways of LINK participants being able to challenge and validate the quality of NHS services throughout the county – using the system known as Quality Accounts, whereby in June of each year providers of NHS services will publish reports to the public on the quality of health care services they deliver.

h) *Issues, issues, issues*

The Priorities Panel of the LINK is currently considering the following issues which have been raised by LINK participants:

- bedside entertainment at Darent Valley Hospital
- medication in care homes for older people
- inadequate provision for young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Kent.

If you have anything to contribute by way of evidence / personal experience in connection with any of these issues, contact Sophie by email sophie@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01303 297050 or 07814 427281.

Further details of the issues can be found on the LINK website at:

www.thekentlink.org.uk/1633

i) *Discussions / debates within the LINK*

Why not take part in current online discussions that are taking place on the following topics:

- Pain services in Kent
- What's right and wrong about Foundation Trusts?
- Should complementary therapies be funded through taxation?

These discussions can be accessed via the 'Talkback' section of the LINK's website at: www.thekentlink.org.uk/index.php?q=9



j) Kent LINK Hygiene Project questionnaire

If you have visited or been a patient at one of Kent's large hospitals, there is still an opportunity for you to tell us your views on the cleanliness of the hospital you visited. Please complete and return the LINK questionnaire (previously supplied) by Friday, 19 March 2010. If you have visited more than one hospital in the last 12 months, please complete a separate questionnaire for each hospital. Additional copies of the questionnaire may be obtained from the KMN office on 01303 297050.

Alternatively, you can complete an online survey using the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KY2GNBH>

For more information, contact Sophie Swain, Project Worker, Kent LINK, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone Kent CT19 4RH, email sophie@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 07814 427281 / 01303 297050.

2. NHS West Kent celebrates equality

NHS West Kent has developed plans to make sure everyone in West Kent has equal access to the healthcare they need. They have worked in partnership with the local community, staff, voluntary organisations and community groups through September to December 2009 to achieve this aim.

The result of this work is the NHS West Kent Single Equality Scheme 2010 – 2013 which was approved by the PCT Board in January 2010. The scheme seeks to deliver health equality for all in West Kent and aims to:

- reduce health inequalities
- promote equality of opportunity
- improve the way services are commissioned and provided
- ensure the PCT's commitment to equality is embedded throughout the organisation
- engage and consult with communities to prioritise actions and promote equality.

NHS West Kent are keen to work more closely with all groups within the local community so that these barriers can be addressed, ensure equitable access, improve people's experience of their healthcare and ensure the best possible health for people in West Kent.

For more information contact Adam Lott, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 376092, email adam.lott@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website:

www.westkentpct.nhs.uk



3. NHS West Kent's pleas to parents on MMR

With the recent news that the medical journal the Lancet has withdrawn controversial research on the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, NHS West Kent is urging parents to make sure their children have the potentially life-saving vaccination.

The Lancet medical journal, which originally published the discredited research linking autism and the MMR vaccination, issued a full retraction saying that claims were made which proved to be false. This followed the announcement that the paper's main author Dr Andrew Wakefield was ruled by the General Medical Council to have broken research rules.

The combined MMR vaccination has protected thousands of children against the potentially life-threatening childhood illnesses. In England, before 1988, there were around a hundred deaths from measles every year this fell dramatically after the MMR vaccination was introduced. However, after the research was released in 1998 rates of immunisation in West Kent fell to around 83 per cent – low enough to put the population in danger.

In West Kent childhood immunisation rates have improved significantly in recent years – now approaching 90 per cent – but they have still not immunised enough of the population's children to minimise the risk of outbreaks.

NHS West Kent is therefore issuing a plea to parents to help them protect children now and in the future by taking up vaccinations.

Parents of children under five who want to have the vaccination should contact their GP.

For further information contact Samantha Colyer, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375200, email Samantha.colyer@wkpct.nhs.uk or Matt.willis@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.westkentpct.nhs.uk/

4. Improving the quality of Out Of Hours Care (OOH)

NHS West Kent is launching a new and improved Primary Care Out of Hours (OOH) service in April 2010. The new service will be available at night time and weekends to anyone who develops an urgent health problem. The hours of opening are between 6.30pm and 8.30am on week days and 24 hours over the weekends – the hours when your day time doctor's surgery is normally closed.

For more information contact Caroline Dyer, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 752050, email Caroline.dyer@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.westkentpct.nhs.uk



5. NHS West Kent will help patients to have their say

NHS West Kent is encouraging local people to help them shape health services. They are offering free training sessions to anyone interested in getting involved. The training will give local people the opportunity to learn more about local health services and how their experiences can influence how the NHS provides healthcare.

People from all walks of life, including members of NHS West Kent's Health Network and voluntary organisations, have already enjoyed the first session held in February.

There are a range of different sessions with something for everyone including how involvement with the NHS can make services better and identifying the services that the community needs. The trainers are all specialists in each subject and the sessions are interactive, giving the opportunity to discuss and develop ideas with like-minded people. You can attend all of the sessions, or just the ones that particularly interest you. You can join in, ask questions, even disagree at times.

The next session is 'Motivators and Barriers – how we can work together to identify health needs' which will be held on Thursday, 18 March 2010 from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Tunbridge Wells.

For more information contact Emma Cain, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375287, email emma.cain@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.westkentpct.nhs.uk/Have_Your_Say

6. Start4Life in Swanley

Swanley has been revealed as the hosting town for the regional launch of Start4Life.

This free event takes place on Thursday, 18 March 2010 from 10.00am to 3.00pm at Swanley Youth and Community Centre, St Mary's Road, Swanley.

This is one of only eight events nationwide and aims to provide advice on baby nutrition and activities to mothers.

Start4Life is Change4Life's sister brand and will offer support to parents to provide better health outcomes for their children by focusing on three key areas: breastfeeding, food, active play.

For more information contact Emma Cain, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375287, email emma.cain@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website www.nhs.uk/start4life



7. INVOKE Directory

The directory of information for the over 50s now has a direct web link to access information about services, clubs and a wide variety of information at:

www.kent.gov.uk/invoke

For more information contact John Brooks, Community Information and Liaison Assistant / Shepway, Age Concern / Lyminge, Jubilee Day Centre, Everist Court, Station Road, Lyminge, CT18 8HQ, telephone 01303 863861, email cila@acshepway.co.uk or visit the website:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/invoke>

8. National Swine Flu Service Closes

The decrease in Swine Flu cases led to the decision to end the National Pandemic Flu Service on Thursday, 11 February 2010.

People with suspected swine flu symptoms are advised to stay at home and telephone their GP. The GP will then be able to prescribe the antivirals where appropriate that can be collected at specific collection points.

If there is an increase in cases, the National Swine Flu Service can commence again within seven days.

The vaccination programme will continue and it remains extremely important for those in priority groups and children aged between six months and five years to have the jab.

For more information contact East Kent Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS), telephone 0800 0 85 66 06, text 07825 844746, email pals@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or contact the NHS West Kent helpline 0800 0850 850.

9. NHS West Kent is changing the way health information is stored and managed

NHS West Kent will shortly be introducing a secure online records service to help deliver better, safer care. The new service will be known as Summary Care Records (SCR) and is gradually being introduced across the UK for patients registered at participating GP practices.

There are a number of practices participating in an early pilot and by early March 2010 all adult patients at the following practices will be sent a letter and patient pack directly from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) with information about the Summary Care Records:

- Dartford East Health Centre, Dartford



- Downs Way Medical Practice (Istead Rise Surgery), Gravesend
- Meopham Medical Centre, Meopham
- Mote Medical Practice, Maidstone
- South Park Medical Practice, Sevenoaks

Other practices will follow.

On the introduction of SCR, healthcare professionals treating a patient anywhere in England will be able to easily access patient vital information including details of any allergies, current prescriptions and whether the patient has had any bad reactions to medicines in the past.

The SCR will be particularly beneficial for patients on multiple medications requiring long term care or in an emergency situation.

Only authorised health professionals, who have satisfied robust access control procedures, will be able to electronically access or share patients' information across GP surgeries, hospitals and other out of hours settings. Patients will also have much more control over who sees their records and what they see. In the near future patients will also be able to view their SCR through a secure, free of charge website called Healthspace.

For more information contact Gemma Chandler, Media Services, NHS West Kent, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375200, email Gemma.chandler@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.westkentpct.nhs.uk

The NHS Care Records Service Information Line can be contacted on 0845 603 8510.

NHS West Kent Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) can be contacted on 0800 0 850 850.

10. Your involvement in recruitment of KCC staff

Would you like to have a say in how staff are recruited? The policy on service user and carer involvement in recruitment was approved in 2005 having been drafted in conjunction with service users and staff who wished to be involved in the recruitment processes.

Since that time, the policy has been rolled out and there has been a significant increase in the number of teams within Kent County Council who have involved users and carers in their recruitment processes, for example:

- people being involved on formal interview panels



- preparing questions for candidates
- shortlisting candidates
- taking part in separate workshops where candidates deliver a presentation, service users ask questions and provide feedback for the recruiters.

For an information pack, feedback form for service users and carers or further useful information about the recruitment process, contact Kent Adult Social Services, Brenchley House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1RF, telephone 08458 247 100, textphone 08458 247 905, email Social.services@kent.gov.uk or visit the website: kent.gov.uk/adult_social_services.aspx

11. 'Adding insult to injury' – NHS failure to implement patient safety alerts

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) have published their report on 'patient safety alerts' within the NHS.

Their report highlights the key findings from their research into the system of issuing 'patient safety alerts' to NHS trusts in England, the degree to which they are being implemented or not, and how compliance with the alerts is monitored and regulated. AvMA investigated whether the 'patient safety alerts' which are sent out to relevant NHS bodies by the National Patient Safety Agency are being fully implemented and, if not, who was responsible and what is being done about it.

For a copy of the report or more information contact Action against Medical Accidents, 44 High Street, Croydon, CR0 1YB, telephone 020 8688 9555 (administration) or 0845 123 23 52 (helpline) or visit the website: www.avma.org.uk

12. Disabled Access Guide (DisabledGo)

Sevenoaks District Council is committed to promoting inclusive and accessible environments for residents and people who work or visit the District.

To help meet the needs of disabled people, Sevenoaks District Council has sponsored DisabledGo to produce an online access guide to some 1000 venues in Sevenoaks District.

The DisabledGo website gives detailed information about the accessibility of local venues. Examples include shops, hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions, pubs, train stations, leisure facilities, local council offices and many other goods and service providers.

The DisabledGo access guide has been specially designed to answer the everyday



questions of disabled people, their assistants, carers, family and friends. The aim is to use access information to empower people to enjoy their communities and make a valued contribution. Visit the website at:
www.disabledgo.com

For more information, contact Sarah Andrews, Equalities Officer, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1HG, telephone 01732 227000 or visit the website:

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/community__living/default.asp

13. Kent Association for the Blind's (KAB) 'Eye Care We Care' campaign urges people to have regular eye tests

Everyday in Britain 100 people start to lose their sight, in many cases, a simple, regular eye check-up is all that's needed to avoid long-term damage to your sight. KAB's 'Eye Care We Care' campaign contributes to two of the three aims of the UK Vision Strategy:

- to improve the eye health of the people of the UK
- to eliminate avoidable sight loss and deliver excellent support to those with a sight problem.

Regardless of age, regular eye tests carried out by an optometrist are vital to make sure your eyes are healthy and to help detect early signs of any harmful conditions such as glaucoma.

For more information contact Charles Marshall, 72 College Road, Maidstone, ME15 6SJ, telephone 01622 691357, email charles.marshall@kab.org.uk or visit the website:

www.kab.org.uk

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 on patient transport services

Local people from across Kent and Medway are invited to attend a series of mini debates on patient transport services.

The debates are taking place as part of the Kent and Medway LINK's 'Access (transport) to Health Services' Project.



People will have the opportunity to have their say about patient transport services across Kent and Medway and talk about what works, what needs improving and how services could be improved.

Dates and venues for the debates are as follows:-

- Ashford – Friday, 19 March 2010 10.00am – 12.00noon
- Tenterden – Monday, 22 March 2010 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- Rainham – Wednesday, 24 March 2010 10.00am – 12.00noon
- Chatham – Thursday, 25 March 2010 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- Canterbury – Friday, 26 March 2010 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- Sheerness – Monday, 29 March 2010 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- Gravesend – Tuesday, 30 March 2010 10.00am – 12.00noon
- Sevenoaks – Wednesday, 31 March 2010 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For more information or to book a place, contact Louise Murrell, LINK Development Worker, telephone 07976 596797, email louise@kentlink.org or write to us at Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4RH.

If you normally use patient transport services to access healthcare and would not be able to attend without transport, please let us know and we will try to arrange transport for you.

2. LINK participants wanted for project group to plan consultation activities on Annual Quality Accounts

Following last year's work on the Annual Health Check, the LINK is to collaborate with Canterbury Christchurch University to provide feedback to local Trusts on their Annual Quality Accounts, which report to the public on the quality of health care services they deliver. Later in the year a series of focus groups and patient panels will be set up to enable LINK participants to have their say on these reports for 2010.

The LINK is looking for a small group of participants to be involved with planning for this work. Full details of the initial meeting to be held during March / April 2010 will be given to those registering their interest in this project and an update will be included in the next Bulletin.

For more information about the Quality Accounts visit the following link:
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Highqualitycareforall/Qualityaccounts/DH_098449

If you would like to be involved or would like further information, contact Sophie Swain,



Project Worker, telephone 07814 427281, email sophie@kmn-ltd.co.uk or write to Kent LINK, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH.

3. Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum

The Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum was set up last year to give a voice to all older people living within the Borough boundary to influence the authorities on matters affecting older people. They would like your views and help to achieve this.

A meeting will be held at Pembury Village Hall on Friday, 26 March 2010 from 12.45pm to 2.30pm. Lunch and entertainment will be provided. Please book by 18 March 2010 if you wish to attend.

To book your place, ask for directions or for more information on the Forum email Mmille7254@aol.com or telephone Maggie on 01892 523858 or Mike 01892 822527.

4. Have your say at the Personal Health Budget Focus Group meetings

This pilot scheme is designed to make services more personalised for individuals to include patient choice, care planning and support for self care.

LINK participants who have some experience of social care payments have been invited to join in the Personal Health Budget Focus Group. Working with the NHS and Kent County Council, the Group will meet quarterly and the next meeting will be held on Thursday, 1 April 2010 from 2.00pm to 3.30pm at the Ashford Gateway, in the town centre.

The team would especially like to meet people from community groups, individuals and LINK participants who have not yet had the opportunity to get involved. This is your opportunity to influence and improve this service. The Group will discuss how they can best network to provide everyone with the chance to have a say about the proposed local health and social care services and personal health budgets scheme.

Participants will need to allow adequate time to read papers prior to the meeting and will be required to give some feedback to the wider LINK for which support will be given. Refreshments and expenses are available to those who wish to attend. The existing project board will provide the appropriate training and support to ensure you are able to participate fully.

For more information contact Georgina Walton, Eversley House, 19 Horn Street, Seabrook, Hythe, CT21 5SB, email georgina.walton@kent.gov.uk or telephone 01303 717029.



5. Launch Event! Sevenoaks District Older Persons Forum

These Forums are run by older people, for older people. Go along and get free advice and information on your local services. Find out how to have a voice in matters that concern all over 50's and raise any issues.

This free event will take place on Tuesday, 23 March 2010 from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Alexandra Suite, St. Mary's Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU. Join them for tea, coffee, cake and a chat.

For further information or if you require help with transport, contact Fiona on 01732 454785, email Diane Aslett at Diane.aslett@helptheaged.org.uk or contact Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1HG, telephone 01732 227000 or visit the website:
www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/community

6. NHS Spinal Pathway

Have you ever suffered back pain? Have you received treatment for this pain?

A Kent wide review is currently taking place for back pain services and NHS West Kent would like to hear about your experiences.

An event has been designed for patients on Thursday, 25 March 2010 at Larkfield Health Centre, Martin Square, Larkfield, ME20 6QJ from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Your input will influence how the service will be provided in the future and what information patients will receive about back pain services.

Free parking is available and travel expenses will be paid to those who attend this event by the Trust.

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

7. Rural health and well-being conference

The Healthy Communities Programme of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) will host a joint conference, chaired by John Craven, and in partnership with the Department of Health, Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) on the subject of rural health and wellbeing.

This free conference will be held on Wednesday, 17 March 2010 from 10.30am to 4.00pm at Albrighton Hall near Shrewsbury.



Last year a survey by IDeA looked at the most pressing issues affecting the health of rural communities. Some of the results showed that the three top issues that impact on the health of rural communities are:

- access to services (75.6 per cent)
- demographic change (58.5 per cent)
- transport (53.6 per cent).

The survey asked how great a concern rural health inequalities are amongst local partners:

- 63.4 per cent said that they are a significant concern
- 19 per cent said a very significant concern
- 17 per cent said not a significant concern.

For more information contact Tristan Godfrey, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ, telephone 01622 694125, Free call 7000 4125, email TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk or visit the website: www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=17488686

8. Health of migrants in the South East region

On 19 March 2010 the Department of Health are hosting an event in London to report on their findings to key stakeholders of their recent health needs assessment. The event will also launch a new regional network for migrant health which will take forward work on the issues identified in the report.

Participants in this event will have the opportunity to contribute to setting the agenda for this network.

For more information contact David Sheehan, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4GA, telephone 01483 882 498, email David.Sheehan@dh.gsi.gov.uk or visit the website: www.hpa-events.org.uk/MigrantHealth

9. Darent Valley Hospital - Trust Board meeting dates

Please see below the dates for the forthcoming Trust Board meetings. All meetings for the coming year will be held in The Board Room, Level 4, Darent Valley Hospital.

- 25 March 2010
- 29 April 2010
- 27 May 2010
- 24 June 2010
- 29 July 2010



- 26 August 2010
- 23 September 2010
- 28 October 2010
- 25 November 2010

Should you wish to find out more about Darent Valley Hospital and ways in which you can become involved, contact Tracey Cummins, Fundraising, Voluntary Services and Foundation Trust Membership Manager, Darent Valley Hospital, Darenth Wood Road, Dartford, DA2 8DA, telephone 01322 428256, email Tracey.Cummins@dvh.nhs.uk or visit the website:
www.dvh.nhs.uk

10. NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services Board Meeting

The next NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, 27 May 2010, venue to be agreed in Ashford.

For more information contact Pauline Gardiner, Corporate Services Manager, Trinity House, Eureka Park, 110 - 120 Upper Pemberton, Kennington, Ashford, TN25 4AZ, telephone 01233 667700, email pauline.gardiner@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or visit the website:
www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk

Consultations

1. Changing Learning Disability Day Services in Maidstone

People with learning disabilities who live within the Maidstone and Malling area have been accessing a variety of services at the Boughton Mount Site since 1948.

For the past 10 years it has been a base for Maidstone DOS, Table Talk and Spectrum Pottery.

KCC are proposing that Maidstone Day Services move off site altogether and that service users and the existing staff team go to community locations instead.

You can find out more about the reasons for this proposed change and what more they would like to do, in the following documents:

- Maidstone Day Care Service consultation document
- Maidstone Day Care presentation.



KCC are starting a consultation programme and would like to know what you think about this proposal.

They would like to hear from everybody who uses any of the existing services, parents and carers, the general public, people who might want to use any of the services in the future, other service colleagues in health, education and housing and staff and union representatives.

You can let KCC Adult Social Services know in the following ways:

- Email your questionnaire (PDF 500KB). Save the questionnaire document to your computer. Complete the form and email the questionnaire to GoodDayProgramme@kent.gov.uk
- Send the questionnaire by post – print off the consultation questionnaire, complete and send it to KCC Adult Social Services, Kings Hill, 17 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, ME19 4UL.

Please note that all consultation responses must be submitted by Friday, 21 May 2010.

For more information contact Judy Williams, KCC Adult Social Services, Kings Hill, 17 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, ME19 4UL, telephone 08458 247 100 email GoodDayprogramme@kent.gov.uk or visit the website: www.kent.gov.uk/learningdisability

2. Single Equality Scheme consultation

The Single Equality Scheme's purpose is to ensure that NHS organisations operate with sensitivity to differences of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion, belief, status, life style, social background, country of origin, or any other grouping of our society. NHS organisations have a legal duty to produce a Single Equality Scheme for their area.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent would be happy to visit your voluntary or community group.

The formal consultation on the scheme for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent is now open and will end on Tuesday, 18 May 2010. Hard copies of the survey are available from NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent upon request. The survey should be returned to the freepost address supplied no later than Tuesday, 18 May 2010.

The survey is available via the internet at:
www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/ses

or via the Kent LINK website:
www.thekentlink.org.uk/assets/files/Publications/SES_survey.pdf



For more information contact Hannah Price, Citizen Engagement Manager, Protea House, New Bridge, Marine Parade, Dover, CT17 9HQ, email hannah.price@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or telephone 01304 216852.

3. Application for Lloyds Pharmacy in Ramsgate

Written comments are invited by Monday, 22 March 2010 on this new application for a pharmacy at the GP development at Dashwood House Surgery, 156-162 Grange Road, Ramsgate.

For more information contact Linda Gibb, Pharmacy Contracts Manager, Kent Primary Care Agency, 11 Station Road, Maidstone, ME14 1QH, telephone 01622 655134, email Linda.gibbs@kpca.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.kentandmedway.nhs.uk

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@kmn-ltd.co.uk

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

(Answerphone available out of hours)