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News

1. What's going on in the LINK?

a) *LINK participants get invite to influence commissioning in West Kent*

The NHS in West Kent has extended an invitation for LINK participants to become part of their five new "Commissioning Delivery Teams". Each team will be responsible for the following clusters of services:

Team 1

- Cancers and tumours
- End of life care
- Blood disorders
- Maternity
- Neonatal conditions

Team 2

- Circulatory
- Respiratory
- Endocrine



Team 3

- Trauma and injuries
- Musculo-skeletal
- Neurology
- Adverse effects of poisoning

Team 4

- Mental health
- Learning disabilities
- Social care
- Healthy individuals (increasing independence)

Team 5

- Dental
- Eye / vision
- Hearing
- Skin
- Infectious diseases
- Gastro-intestinal system
- Genito-urinary system
- Healthy individuals (primary prevention)

If you are a registered LINK participant and have some interest or experience of the above services and wish to find out more about contributing to the LINK network in these areas, contact Chris Bostock by email at chris@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 0797 6596410 / 01303 297050.

b) Programme of work commences in East Kent

A shared programme of work has begun between NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and the Kent LINK – the purpose being to ensure a focus of effort on the following important areas of activity:

- Engaging with people who are seldom heard
- Establishing first point of contact areas for the public interested in engaging with social care and exploring the shared use of the Gateways for this purpose
- Exploring how Patient Participation Groups might benefit from closer working with the LINK
- Digital engagement, particularly about developing communication with young people through the use of social networking
- To support those who wish to actively engage with the NHS on the various types of involvement.

For more information about this work contact Louise Murrell by email at louise@kentlink.org or telephone 0797 6596797 / 01303 297050.



c) **Developing the 'N'**

The 'N' in LINK stands for Network – the notion of people with a shared interest networking or making contact with one another around a shared interest is not new, but it is a big part of what the LINK is all about. Already groups of LINK participants are communicating with one another around an interest in a service, disease, condition or something that affects their locality. Currently we are particularly interested in developing the LINK's networks around mental health services and services for people with a learning disability.

If you are interested in getting involved in either of these areas the contacts are:

- Mental health services –Cate Boland by email at cate@kentlink.org or telephone 0797 6596709 / 01303 297050
- Services for people with a learning disability - Chris Bostock by email at chris@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 0797 6596410 / 01303 297050

For more information on any of the above news stories, contact Kent & Medway Networks on 01303 297050, email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or visit the Kent LINK website: www.thekentlink.co.uk

2. **Have your say on whether your local Trust is providing a quality service**

Each mental health, ambulance and hospital Trust will be required to produce a Quality Account for 2009 / 2010 to say what they have done well in the last 12 months, what the areas for improvement are and what their priorities are for the coming year.

The LINK is working with Canterbury Christ Church to provide a comment to each Trust by asking participants about their opinions on each Trust's account. There is still time to have your say so, if you have been an inpatient or outpatient in the last year and would like to have chance to give your input.

For more information or to register your comments, contact Sophie Swain, Kent LINK Project Worker, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH, telephone 07814 427281 / 01303 297050, email sophie@kmn-ltd.co.uk or visit the website: www.thekentlink.co.uk

3. **New General Medical Council (GMC) guidance for doctors involved in research**

Research is essential to maintaining and improving healthcare but it can be difficult. This new guidance provides a framework to guide decisions throughout all stages of a research project. It includes specific advice on:

- the law and governance arrangements that apply to research in the UK



- good research design and practice, including the importance of promoting equality and preventing discrimination at all stages of research
- avoiding conflicts of interest and protecting participants from harm
- the process of seeking participant consent
- involving adults who lack capacity in research
- the considerations about involving children or young people in research.

For more information contact Olivia Stapleton or Suzanne Wood, General Medical Council, Regents Place, 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3JN, telephone 020 7189 5404, email gmcstand@gmc-uk.org or visit the website: www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/research_guidance

4. New study marks major advance in cancer screening

The remarkable results of a study which Cancer Research UK has helped to fund are revealed. They provide hard evidence that a one-off screening procedure could prevent a third of bowel cancers and reduce death rates by nearly half. These are extremely important results because bowel cancer is the third most common cancer and the second biggest cancer killer in the UK. It is expected that the results will get even better as the people who took part in this study are monitored for a few more years.

Visit the following link for more details:

scienceblog.cancerresearchuk.org/2010/04/28/new-study-marks-major-advance-in-bowel-cancer-screening

For more information contact Harpal Kumar, Cancer Research UK, 61 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PX, telephone 020 7242 0200 or visit the website: www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutus/contactus/enquiryform/

5. 'Acute awareness: improving hospital care for people with dementia'

The NHS Confederation has published a report 'Acute awareness: improving hospital care for people with dementia' which looks at the key issues for NHS trusts in improving hospital care for patients with dementia, many of whom have been admitted with other conditions.

For more information contact The NHS Confederation, 29 Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DD, telephone 020 7074 3200, email enquiries@nhsconfed.org or visit the website: www.nhsconfed.org



Events

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

1. Kent LINK Community Engagement Event

The next Community Engagement Event will be taking place on Thursday, 29 July 2010 in Thanet. Further information will follow shortly

For more information contact Louise Murrell, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Business Park, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH, telephone 07976 596797 / 01303 297050, email louise@kentlink.org or visit the website: www.thekentlink.co.uk

2. Patients to have their say – Rheumatology Services in East Kent

If you use Rheumatology Services for Arthritis, Lupus or Osteoarthritis this is a great opportunity to have a say in how those services are developed and improved.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Community Services are running four sessions to give people the opportunity to talk about current services and how they could be improved:

- Monday, 24 May 2010 2.15pm to 3.30pm - Healthy Living Centre, Off the Broadway, Sheerness, ME12 1HH
- Tuesday, 25 May 2010 7.15pm to 8.30pm - ARCA (Ashford Road Community Association), Ashford Road, Canterbury, CT1 3XR
- Wednesday, 26 May 2010 10.45am to 12.00noon - Trinity Resource Centre, St. Mary's Avenue, Margate, CT9 3TN
- Thursday, 3 June 2010, 1.45pm to 3.00pm - Room 3, Trinity House, 110 / 120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Business Park, Kennington, Ashford, TN25 4AZ (opposite the shops).

To book your free place, contact the Communication and Engagement Team by email at cs.commsteam@eastcoastkent.nhs or telephone 01233 667810.

If you are unable to attend one of these sessions but would still like to take part, contact Karen Edmunds, Communication and Engagement Team, NHS Eastern and Coastal Community Services, Trinity House, 110 / 120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Business Park, Kennington, Ashford, TN25 4AZ, telephone 01233 667810, email cs.commsteam@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk



3. Staffing at Maidstone Diabetes Services

NHS West Kent have offered to meet LINK participants who raised concerns regarding staffing of diabetes services in Maidstone to discuss the situation further. The meeting is due to take place in June, at a date and location to be confirmed.

If you have an interest in this area and would like to attend the meeting, contact Sophie Swain, Kent LINK, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, CT19 4RH, telephone 07814 427281 / 01303 297050, email sophie@kmn-ltd.co.uk or visit the website:

www.thekentlink.co.uk

4. Gravesham Volunteer Centre celebration event

Gravesham Volunteer Centre is organising a Volunteer Celebration on Saturday, 5 June 2010 from 10.00am to 4.00pm at St. George's Church, Gravesend. There will be around 30 organisations taking part in recognising, rewarding and recruiting volunteers.

On Sunday, 6 June 2010, the Rev Canon Chris Stone will host a special church service in the afternoon.

For more information contact Jenny Lane, Gravesham Volunteer Centre, The Arc, 45 Windmill Street, Gravesham, DA12 1BA, telephone 01474 322729, email jenny@volunteercentregravesham.org or visit the website:

<http://www.volunteercentregravesham.org/>

5. Shaping the future of your ambulance service

SECamb have announced details of this year's 'Shaping the future of your ambulance service' days. This is the fourth year running they are holding these successful events, and this year there will be six (one in each local authority area) as opposed to the usual three, in order to enable more people to attend. As always, these are interesting, interactive events with lunch and refreshments provided.

The days are being held at:

- Monday, 14 June 2010 – The Corn Exchange, Rochester
- Tuesday, 15 June 2010 – Uckfield Civic Centre, East Sussex
- Friday, 18 June 2010 – Brighthelm Centre, Brighton
- Thursday, 24 June 2010 – Folkestone Racecourse, Kent
- Wednesday, 30 June 2010 – Martlets Hall, Burgess Hill, West Sussex
- Thursday, 8 July 2010 – The Hilton, Cobham, Surrey

If LINK participants aren't able to make their local event, they may attend any of the others.



Each event will have a special guest speaking on different health topics including asthma and lung conditions, health inequalities and dementia to name a few, and participants will have the opportunity to talk about issues that matter to them. Events are expected to begin at 10.00am and will finish by 4.00pm.

To register for the event, please contact Louise Hutchinson, Shaping the Future, South East Coast Ambulance Services NHS Trust, FREEPOST BR1578, 40-42 Friars Walk, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2XW, telephone 01273 897840 email shapingthefuture@secamb.nhs.uk

Consultations

1. General Optical Council – ‘Licence to Practise’

The Optical Council is currently seeking patient and public input on whether a 'Licence to Practise' should form part of revalidation for opticians.

The 'Licence to Practise' could distinguish between practitioners who have been revalidated and those who have not. This would mean that registrants who are active in clinical practice would be required to undergo revalidation to gain their licence to practise.

The seminar takes place on Tuesday, 25 May 2010 from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Sycamore Room, 33 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0PW.

For more information contact Grahame Tinsley, General Optical Council, 41 Harley Street, London, W1G 8DJ, telephone 020 7307 3477, email gtinsley@optical.org or visit the website:

www.optical.org

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)