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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.

1. LINK gives evidence on mental health services

Information

LINK participants Mark Fittock and Roger Kendall gave evidence on community mental health services at a meeting held at County Hall, Maidstone on 25 November 2010. They conveyed the views expressed by users and carers at a series of LINK Workshops held during September. The topics include:

- Redesign of services
- Crisis intervention
- Carer's support
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

2. Joint working agreement for public involvement in East Kent

Information

Kent LINK and Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust signed an agreement on 1 November 2010 which promotes closer working and greater opportunities for joint patient and public engagement.

The agreement allows both parties to share understanding and information, increase public acknowledgement of Kent LINK and strengthens the new Trust's accountability.

Mike Barkway, Chair, Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust, said: "This agreement is very good news for the Trust and we hope it will help us involve groups and communities that are normally reluctant to engage directly with the NHS. It means we can work in a more targeted manner with Kent LINK and I look forward to working more closely with them. We already have two Kent LINK representatives on the Board and this is another step forward in building a positive relationship with an important local patient and public network."

Cate Jackson, Co-opted Board Member, Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust and Kent LINK External Representative, said: "On behalf of Kent LINK, I am really encouraged by this agreement and it is a great pleasure to be working in partnership. It will mean we will be able to work closer together to ensure we both meet our mutual goals of improving patient experience."

For more information contact Becky Barraclough, Kent LINK Development Worker, by email rebecca@kentlink.org or telephone 07976 596797.

3. Priorities Panel – latest issues

Action by: Monday, 6 December 2010

The following issues have been raised with the Kent LINK:

1. Proposal to withdraw mini buses supplied to Age Concern which presents a serious threat to the services provided to the frail and elderly
2. Inadequacies of services for supplying and fitting orthopaedic appliances and physiotherapy services
3. Staff shortages at the Lenworth Clinic in Ashford that are said to be adversely affecting the mental health services for children and young people
4. Observations on the design of new ambulances that are to be purchased for use in Kent
5. Proposed rationalisation of Dentaline Centres in Kent
6. Request for LINK to assist NHS West Kent in carrying out 'mystery shopping' to check how easy it is to register with a dentist in the area.

If you have experience of any of these issues which you would like to share, or if you would like to make a comment on the action that should be taken by the LINK, please contact Deborah Gibbons by email deborah@kentlink.org or telephone 07875 286999.

Further enquiries relating to the above information can be addressed to Kent LINK, Unit 24, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Business Park, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4RH, email info@kentlink.org or telephone 01303 297050.

Notices – for information or action

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

1. Workplace workshops offered on coping with tough times

Action

The NHS is funding a series of free 'Ways to Wellbeing Workplace' workshops as part of the Government's Live it Well Strategy.

Organisations are invited to get involved to host workshops covering issues such as stress, anxiety, low mood and work-related and financial worries that are becoming everyday realities as more people face coping with the impact of the economic downturn.

The workshops will be run by professionals from KCA's (formerly 'The Kent Council on Alcohol') Psychological Therapy Team and employment specialists. They aim to help people survive uncertain times by introducing them to strategies designed to build up their resilience and help them thrive.

To plan and arrange a workshop for your organisation in 2011 or find out more contact Don MacLeod, KCA (UK) Psychological Therapy Providers, Medway PTP, 248a High Street, Chatham, ME4 4AN, telephone 01634 406087 or email don.macleod@kca.org.uk

2. Folkestone Wheelchair Assessment Service is on the move

Information

The Folkestone Wheelchair Assessment Service has moved to new premises at Aylesham

Health Centre in Queens Road. Patients, carers and healthcare professionals will now benefit from a more spacious and professional environment with dedicated disabled parking spaces.

There are two wheelchair assessment centres in the area; the other is located at St Martins Hospital in Canterbury. Together they work with 11,500 adults and children to ensure they have suitable wheelchairs to meet their needs.

Aylesham Wheelchair Assessment Service can be contacted on 01304 843777 – the Canterbury office can be reached on 01227 812393.

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday from 8.00am to 4.00pm and Friday from 8.00am to 3.30pm.

For more information contact Gary McFegan, Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust, Trinity House, 110-120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Park, Ashford, TN25 4AZ, telephone 01233 667813, email gary.mcfegan@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk

3. Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services now an NHS Trust

Information

Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services became an NHS Trust in its own right on 1 November 2010.

The newly named Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust is one of eight community services organisations to be recognised nationally as being ready to become a separate trust in the Department of Health's Transforming Community Services Programme.

They will continue to serve approximately 740,000 people across Swale, Ashford, Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Shepway.

The community nurses, physiotherapists, dieticians, health visitors and many other healthcare professionals provide NHS care in a range of settings such as people's own homes, nursing homes, health clinics, community hospitals, minor injury units, a walk-in centre and mobile units.

For more information contact Gary McFegan, Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust, Trinity House, 110-120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Park, Ashford, TN25 4AZ, telephone 01233 667813, email gary.mcfegan@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk

4. New guide to producing patient information

Information

This new guide has been produced by NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Community services. It is a tool to support staff when producing written patient information and will ensure that information for patients and service users is clear, concise, relevant, accurate and in everyday language. It will also help to develop effective patient information ensuring that it meets the patients and service users needs in terms of providing this in

different languages, in Braille, large print, on audio CD or tape, using appropriate symbols and objects, or the support of other services such as an interpreter.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) requires the NHS to demonstrate that patients, public and relatives who use health services receive clear information when first accessing a service, including the type of support provided.

For further information contact Charlotte Wood, Communication and Engagement Team, Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust, Trinity House Eureka Park, 110 / 120 Upper Pemberton, Kennington, Ashford, TN25 4AZ, telephone 01233 667817 or email Charlotte.Wood@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk

5. NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent: tackling financial challenges

Information

Following the spending review Ann Sutton, Chief Executive, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, has provided the following statement:

As a consequence of an increase in referrals from GPs, and hospitals treating more patients, coupled with the increased demand on services during the winter, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent are looking hard at every penny they spend. They are predicting their overspend could rise to £19 million by the end of the financial year if we have a severe winter.

To ensure services are there for those most in need they are asking GPs to share the responsibility of addressing these challenges.

Therefore, they have asked our GPs to stop referrals during the winter period into hospitals for low priority procedures and are proposing that the median waiting time for treatment is extended by three weeks. They are also consulting them on further options.

These are not decisions NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's taken lightly. However, they are confident that by working with GPs they will continue to commission safe services for patients.

For more information contact Karen Grout, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, Brook House, Block C, John Wilson Business Park, Whitstable, CT5 3QT, telephone 01227 795 000, email communications@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or visit the website: <http://www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk>

6. GP advice on winter colds, coughs and flu

Information

GPs in East Kent are offering patients delayed prescriptions in an effort to help win the war against antibiotic resistance.

Doctors are reminding patients that if you have a cough, cold or flu this winter - antibiotics probably won't work for you. Colds and flu are caused by viruses, not bacteria, and taking

antibiotics when you have a virus may do more harm than good.

Not only will it not cure the infection, keep other people from getting sick or help you feel better, it may also cause unnecessary side effects.

Instead, GPs are urging patients to see their local pharmacist who can help you self care. This will help to ensure antibiotics are only prescribed when they are really needed and therefore remain effective.

Last year, over half a million prescriptions for antibiotics were written for patients in East Kent and antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public health problems.

For more information contact Audra Chantry, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, Brook House, Block C, John Wilson Business Park, Whitstable, CT5 3QT, telephone 01227 791162, email communications@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or visit the website: <http://www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk>

7. NHS West Kent delays referrals to avoid overspend

Information

NHS West Kent has written to GPs asking them to defer referrals for gender reassignment, IVF and surgery for the obese until April 2011. GPs have also been asked to consider where treatment can be more appropriately provided in the community rather than in hospital.

Chief Executive Marion Dinwoodie said: "We need to take strong action to deal with the pressures on services and finances firmly and quickly to make sure the NHS can continue to provide the valuable care people need. No-one with a compelling clinical need for treatment this year will miss out, but we are asking GPs to consider if referrals for treatment like gender reassignment or IVF can be delayed until next year."

For more information contact Samantha Colyer, Press and PR Officer, NHS West Kent, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375200 or email samantha.colyer@wkpct.nhs.uk

8. NHS West Kent wins 'Excellence in Commissioning' award

Information

NHS West Kent has won the South East Coast regional award for Excellence in Commissioning. The award was presented at the Best in Health and Social Care Awards Ceremony in Brighton on 7 October 2010.

The team has been commended for the way in which it developed the service specification in partnership with patients and the public, clinicians from both secondary and primary care and social care professionals.

For further information contact Matt Willis, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375270, email Twohospitalsonefuture@nhs.net or visit the website: www.mtw.nhs.uk

9. NHS West Kent event sees 140 people discuss end-of-life care

Update

On 12 October 2010, 140 clinicians, voluntary sector representatives, care home staff, managers, patients, carers and GPs gathered in West Kent to discuss how to make care for people at the end of their lives as good as possible.

The event also marked the launch of NHS West Kent's 'Do not attempt CPR' (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) policy for people who don't want to be resuscitated, which has now been adopted by the whole South East Coast area. It was also an opportunity for people to feed into West Kent's new Advance Care Plan, which aims to support people who want to make an advance decision to refuse treatment.

If you would like to find out more about the next stages or would like to get involved please contact Ferne Haxby, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375200 ext 5411, email ferne.haxby@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website: http://www.westkentpct.nhs.uk/Media_Centre

10. New film explores maternity choices in West Kent

Information

A new short film made by NHS West Kent and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust explores the theme of choice of setting for childbirth and the planned changes taking place to services in the area. It features local women talking about their experiences and hopes for childbirth relating to home birth, the new midwifery-led unit at Maidstone and the women and children's centre in the new hospital at Pembury.

The film can now be seen on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1islovY7fg0>

For more details about the changes at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells you can visit the NHS Trust's website, where your views are welcome.

For further information contact Matt Willis, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375270, email Twohospitalsonefuture@nhs.net or visit the website: www.mtw.nhs.uk

11. Disability Involvement Forum meeting, Chatham

Meeting: Thursday, 9 December 2010

The next Disability Involvement Forum meeting will be held on Thursday, 9 December 2010 at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Island Way West, St Mary's Island, Chatham Maritime, ME4 3EP. The meeting will start at 1.00pm and finish at around 3.00pm with a short break for refreshments at about 2.00pm.

Please note that at this meeting a member(s) of the organisation Royal Association for the Deaf (RAD) will be present to talk about their contract and the services they can offer.

If you wish to suggest any items for the agenda or to book your place, please contact them direct by one of the following means:

- email: diversity.team@kent.pnn.police.uk

- email: hazel.knight@kent.pnn.police.uk
- telephone: 01622 652437.

For further information contact Hazel Knight, Diversity Engagement Officer, Kent Police Headquarters Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ, telephone 01622 652437 email hazel.knight@kent.pnn.police.uk or visit the website: www.kent.police.uk

12. 'Valuing Volunteers' – free training for managers

Training offer

This training is for managers of volunteers and has been developed to help managers enable volunteers to think about and to record some of the skills and knowledge they are gaining through their work. At the end of the course participants will be given a toolkit to take away with them to use with their staff.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Further details for the Training Programme for October 2010 – January 2011, to book a place or check the course details visit the website: www.nkts.co.uk

For more information, contact Catherine Morgan, Council for Voluntary Service (Medway), under1roof, 5A New Road Avenue, Chatham, ME4 6BB, telephone 01634 818036 or email training-admin@cvsmedway.org.uk

13. Patients in Medway urged to have seasonal flu jab

Information

Medway GPs are gearing up for the seasonal flu vaccination programme which has now been launched by the Department of Health.

The campaign encourages people at risk of complications from seasonal flu to protect themselves by getting their free flu jabs.

For the first time all pregnant women are being offered the seasonal flu vaccination. This is because the vaccine this year protects against the H1N1 virus (swine flu) that will be circulating this winter and pregnant women who catch this strain of flu are at an increased risk of severe disease.

Everyone over 65 is routinely offered the jab every winter, as are younger people with long-term conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, asthma, multiple sclerosis, serious kidney disease and liver disease.

Around 15 million people in the UK have the jab, which must be given every year to match the flu strains in circulation.

Every year there are around 8,000 seasonal flu-related deaths in the winter months in England and Wales. Complications include chest infections such as pneumonia.

For more information contact your local GP or visit the website: www.nhs.uk/winterhealth

14. New dermatology services for West Kent

Information

The West Kent Dermatology Unit, which is provided by Medway NHS Foundation Trust, has relocated from Pembury Hospital to new modern facilities at Borough Green's Medical Practice.

The new unit boasts two large and immaculate consulting rooms, one treatment room and a minor procedure room. The minor procedure room provides three minor operation sessions a week.

The service at Borough Green, which caters for a number of skin conditions, is staffed by the same consultants and nurses with complex cases still able to access hospital care.

For more information contact Borough Green Medical Practice, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, TN15 8RQ or telephone 01732 885555.

15. GPs and Primary Care Trust come together to discuss future

Information

Leading GPs in East Kent have come together with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to talk tactics as the handover of NHS commissioning power begins to take shape.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent organised the GP Commissioning Consortia workshop attended by more than 20 GPs plus representatives from the PCT and Kent County Council at the Seasalter Christian Centre on 18 October 2010.

Chair Dr Tony Martin, a Doctor at Bethesda Medical Centre in Cliftonville, stated the aim of the event was to gather ideas and concerns as GPs get to grips with the responsibilities they could be taking on in the future.

In July, Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley announced that GPs would take control of commissioning health services and PCTs would be abolished by 2013. This means GPs will then have responsibility for finding out what healthcare services communities need and purchasing these services on their behalf.

To help GPs understand all the functions they are being asked to take over under the proposal, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent has been compiling a list - which is currently running at more than 200.

The main topic of discussion was the size of the consortia.

For more details read Dr Robert Stewart's monthly column as the changes take shape at www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk

For further information contact Julia Rogers, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, Brook House, Block C, John Wilson Business Park, Whitstable, CT5 3QT, telephone 01227 791163, email communications@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or visit the website: <http://www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk>

16. Sports personality talks healthy lifestyles

Information

British Masters swimmer and cross country mountain bike champion Debbie Burton encouraged more than 50 patients to think about their wellbeing at a health promotion evening organised by the Sellindge Surgery Patient Participation Group.

The event highlighted the importance of staying fit and keeping a healthy weight. Debbie called on her own experiences of swimming and cycling training to motivate the audience to get active.

Earlier this year, the Sellindge Surgery Patient Participation Group was awarded a share of the Department of Health 'Making a Difference' fund to deliver this healthy lifestyle promotion event and also to organise a care for carers evening that will take place early next year.

The patient group was established in October 2007 and since its formation has increased awareness of health issues with patients and raised in excess of £3,000 to purchase equipment for the surgery.

For more details on the patient group call 01303 812237.

For further information on this item contact Hannah Warburton, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, Brook House, Block C, John Wilson Business Park, Whitstable, CT5 3QT, telephone 01227 791166, email communications @eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or visit the website: <http://www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk>

17. Royal College of GPs to launch commissioning support centre

Information

The Royal College of GPs is to set up a centre for commissioning in order to support GPs in their new role as budget holders.

The centre, which is planned to be launched in December, will be established in partnership with the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

The College said it will help GPs and emerging consortia develop the skills, competencies and expertise required to deliver effective service development and clinical leadership and will provide a range of proven, cost effective and best practice solutions.

For more information contact the Royal College of General Practitioners, 1 Bow Churchyard, London, EC4M 9DQ, telephone 020 3188 7400, email press@rcgp.org.uk or visit the website: <http://www.rcgp.org.uk>

Consultations – have your say

1. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for West Kent

Action: Consultation – closing date 5 December 2010

NHS West Kent would like to know what you think about their assessment of pharmacy services in West Kent. They have carried out a detailed analysis of the health needs of the population, as well as the current pharmacy services, and have set out the findings in a draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. This document will inform developments and improvements to these services over the next three years.

There is a short online survey and a downloadable feedback form, which is on their website.

The consultation period ends on Sunday, 5 December 2010 with the final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment being published on 1 February 2011.

If you would like a hard copy of the documents or more information contact Emma Cain, Community Involvement Manager, 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

2. Pharmacy application – Ramsgate

Action: Consultation – closing date 17 December 2010

Views are invited on plans to open a new pharmacy at 12 Oakfield Court, Newington Road, Ramsgate, CT12 6EN.

Copies of the plans are available from Becky Barraclough, email rebecca@kentlink.org or telephone 07976 596797.

Comments can be sent to Debra Bell, Pharmacy Contracts Officer, Kent Primary Care Agency contact details below.

The consultation ends on Friday, 17 December 2010.

For more information contact Debra Bell, Pharmacy Contracts Office, Kent Primary Care Agency, 11 Station Road, Maidstone, ME14 1QH, email to debbie.bell@nhs.net or telephone 01622 655148.

3. Pharmacy movements in Maidstone and Tonbridge

Action: Consultation – closing date 2 December 2010

Written comments are invited on the following applications:

- Application No 82 Relocation from 58 - 60 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone to the New Health Centre Development, 1 Bower Mount Road, Maidstone, ME16 8AX
- Application No 83 Minor Relocation (over 500m) from 58 - 60 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone to the new Health Centre Development, 1 Bower Mount Road, Maidstone, ME16 8AX.

For more information or to comment contact Debra Bell, Pharmacy Contracts Office, Kent Primary Care Agency, 11 Station Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1QH, email debbie.bell@nhs.net or telephone 01622 655148.

4. Dementia care – delivering new priorities and focus

Meeting: Wednesday, 15 December 2010

On Wednesday, 15 December 2010 The House of Westminster is hosting a consultation day on dementia care.

Dementia is now the most significant health and social crisis of the century. A new direction for the dementia strategy has been outlined in the recent publication 'Quality outcomes for people with dementia: Building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy'. This Briefing will provide delegates with a forum to examine the revised Dementia Care Strategy and its implications for practitioners and patients. Participants will also have the opportunity to consider how to implement the new priorities and discuss the Coalition's plans for dementia care.

The afternoon will be highly interactive, investigating successful examples of local dementia care services and offer practical solutions to the challenges faced by practitioners and carers. To view the agenda, visit the website: <http://www.westminster-briefing.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Dementia-Agenda.pdf>

The cost for delegates is £225 per delegate or £175 per delegate for two or more places.

For more information contact James MacDaid, Research and Development Manager, Westminster Briefing, Dod's Parliamentary Communications 2010, 4 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1X 7DL, telephone 020 7096 2917 email James.MacDaid@westminster-briefing.com or visit the website: <http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=12919>

5. Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution

Action: Consultation – closing date 14 January 2011

The Government's vision is of an NHS that puts patients and the public first – where patients, service users, carers and families have far more influence and choice in the system and the NHS is more responsive to their needs and wishes.

An Information Revolution is one of a series of documents for consultation published

subsequent to the White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. It is part of the Government's agenda to create a revolution for patients - 'putting patients first' - giving people more information and control and greater choice about their care. The information revolution is about transforming the way information is accessed, collected, analysed and used by the NHS and adult social care services so that people are at the heart of health and adult social care services.

One of the key proposals is about patients' records. The Government wants people to have access to all their different records - from GPs, other health providers and adult social care providers.

GPs and other care providers will be encouraged to go further than simply providing information. Patients could:

- add to their records, for example by recording their symptoms, the medication they have taken and the results of tests they have carried out at home
- take an electronic copy of their records and share it with any organisation or person of their choice to help manage their care
- contact their GP and other health providers online, rather than face-to-face.

Views on the specific questions posed are invited by 14 January 2011.

To respond to the consultation visit the website below to complete the online response form or print and post it to Consultation Responses, Information Strategy Team, Department of Health, 7th Floor, New Kings Beam House, London, SE1 9BW:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120080

For more information contact Consultation Responses, Information Strategy Team, Department of Health, 7th Floor, New Kings Beam House, London, SE1 9BW, email informationrevolution@dh.gsi.gov.uk or visit the website:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120080

6. Liberating the NHS: Greater Choice and Control

Action: Consultation – closing date 14 January 2011

The Government's vision is of an NHS that puts patients and the public first - where patients, service users, carers and families have far more influence and choice in the system and the NHS is more responsive to their needs and wishes.

The White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, sets out proposals which envisage a presumption of greater choice and control over care and treatment, choice of treatment and healthcare provider becoming the reality in the vast majority of NHS-funded services by no later than 2013 / 2014.

The consultation wants your views on:

- how to make choice and shared decision-making (making decisions about your treatment or care with those caring for you) the rule, not the exception
- what sort of choices you want to make, when you want to make them and the support you need to make the right choice for you
- how to meet the challenge of ensuring that the choices people make are safe and sustainable and do not cause problems either for them or the NHS
- whether there should be limits on choice
- how to make sure choice is offered to everyone, from maternity services to end of life care.

To respond to the consultation visit the website below to complete the online response form or print and post it to Consultation Responses, Choice Policy Team, Department of Health, 11th Floor, New Kings Beam House, London, SE1 9BW:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_119651

The consultation closes on Friday, 14 January 2011.

For more information contact Consultation Responses, Choice Response Team, Department of Health, 11th Floor, New Kings Beam House, London, SE1 9BW, email choiceconsultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk or visit the website: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_119651

7. The Cancer Drugs Fund

Action: Consultation – closing date 19 January 2011

The Department of Health (DH) has launched a public consultation on the Cancer Drugs Fund. This year the Government made £50 million available to the NHS for interim funding of additional NHS cancer drugs. Now the public consultation sets out how the DH plans to establish the Cancer Drugs Fund from April 2011. The Fund will provide a means of improving patient access to cancer drugs prior to the anticipated reform of arrangements for branded drug pricing on expiry of the current Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) at the end of 2013.

The objectives of the Cancer Drugs Fund are to:

- provide maximum support to patients
- put clinicians and cancer specialists at the heart of decision making, consistent with the Government's wider policy of empowering health professionals and enabling them to use their professional judgement about what is right for patients
- act as an effective bridge to the Government's aim of introducing a value-based pricing system for branded drugs in 2014.

The consultation asks questions about the proposed structure, operation and scope of the fund. To view the consultation documents visit the website:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_120931.pdf

If you would like a hard copy version of the document contact the KMN office on 01303 297050 or email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk

Responses to this consultation must be submitted by Wednesday, 19 January 2011.

For more information contact Gillian Baker, Consultation Co-ordinator, Cancer Drugs Fund, Department of Health, 5W12 Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE or email cancerdrugsfund@dh.gsi.gov.uk

8. Give your views on the quality of home care for older people

Action: Consultation – closing date 4 February 2011

The Equality and Human Rights Commission launched an Inquiry on 10 November 2010 into the quality of home care delivered to older people in relation to their human rights. In particular the Commission wants views about whether people are being treated with dignity, respect, receive appropriate privacy and have choice and control over how they live.

Your views can be given by completing a questionnaire (it takes less than 15 minutes to complete). The questionnaire (and other inquiry details) can be obtained from the Commission on 0845 604 6610 or their website:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/formal-inquiries/inquiry-into-older-people-in-homecare-and-human-rights/call-for-evidence/>

The Commission's evidence gathering will run until Friday, 4 February 2011.

For more information contact the Equality and Human Rights Commission Helpline, Freepost RLLL-GHUX-CTR, Arndale House, Arndale Centre, Manchester, M4 3AQ, telephone 0845 604 6610, email englandhelpline@equalityhumanrights.com or visit the website: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/formal-inquiries/inquiry-into-older-people-in-homecare-and-human-rights>

9. Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care

Action: Consultation – closing date 9 February 2011

Alongside the Social Care Vision, the Department of Health has launched Transparency in Outcomes: a framework for adult social care - a consultation on a new strategic approach to quality and outcomes in adult social care. The consultation envisages an enabling framework which places outcomes at the heart of social care, improves quality in services and empowers citizens to hold their councils to account for the services they provide. The next stage will be co-produced with partners, based on responses to this consultation.

The consultation documents are available at the following website:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_121660.pdf

This consultation closes on Wednesday, 9 February 2011.

You can contribute to the consultation by providing written comments to Quality and Outcomes Consultation, Department of Health, Room 114, Wellington House, 133 - 155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, email qualityandoutcomes@dh.gsi.gov.uk or visit the website: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_121509

Expenses

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

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