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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. Changes in the NHS – what will it mean for YOU and your doctor? – 22 June 2011, Dover event

Date for your diary

Following the huge success of this event in Tunbridge Wells, the LINK is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a similar event in Dover in the evening of Wednesday, 22 June 2011 at The Ark, Noah's Ark Road, Dover, CT17 0DD. The event will start at 5.45pm (arrival and light buffet from 5.00pm) and end by 8.30pm. There will be time for you to ask questions and to have your say. For more information:

LINK Contact:

Name: Louise Murrell

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913

Email: louise@kentlink.org

2. LINK Surgery at Maidstone Gateway

Information service

LINK representatives will be at the Maidstone Gateway to meet anyone who wishes to know more about Kent LINK. They will be there on alternative Wednesday afternoons from 1.00pm to 5.00pm.

You can make an appointment to speak to someone or just call in on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 20 April 2011
- Wednesday, 4 May 2011
- Wednesday, 18 May 2011
- Wednesday, 1 June 2011
- Wednesday, 15 June 2011.

LINK Contact:

Name: Cate Boland

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596709

Email: cate@kentlink.org

3. Kent LINK Governors' Group – meeting dates

Dates for your diary

The Kent LINK Governors' Group meetings are open to the public. The next meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, 20 April 2011 from 10.00am to 1.00pm
Osborne Room, Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way, Lenham, ME17 2QT
- Wednesday, 18 May 2011 from 10.00am to 1.00pm

Main Hall, Maidstone Community Support Centre, 39-48 Marsham Street,
Maidstone, ME14 1HH.

Please note that expenses cannot be claimed for attendance at these meetings in accordance with Kent LINK Governance. If you have any queries or would like to attend any of these meetings:

LINK Contact:

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260724

Email: steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk

4. Priorities Panel – latest issues

Update

A meeting of the Priorities Panel was held on 6 April 2011 to discuss new issues. The following issues were raised:

1. Perceived lack of choice about care homes
2. Need for LINK to carry out visits to residential and nursing homes in West Kent.

The Panel agreed to take no further action on these issues at this time. If you have experience of these issues which you would like to share, or if you would like to make a comment as to what action should be taken by the LINK:

LINK Contact:

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260724

Email: steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk

5. Priorities Panel – meeting dates

Dates for your diary

The Kent LINK Priorities Panel meetings are open to the public. The next meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, 4 May 2011 from 1.00pm to 3.30pm
Salvation Army Centre, 74 – 80 Union Street, Maidstone, ME14 1ED
- Wednesday, 1 June 2011 from 1.00pm to 3.30pm
Salvation Army Centre, 74 – 80 Union Street, Maidstone, ME14 1ED.

Please note expenses cannot be claimed for attendance at these meetings in accordance with Kent LINK Governance. If you have any queries or would like to attend these meetings:

LINK Contact:

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260724

Email: steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk

6. KCC Family and Children’s Services Area Involvement Groups

Get involved!

Kent LINK, in partnership with Kent Adult Social Services, supports two groups to enable more local people to get involved and help shape the future of social services.

The new groups, representing the East and the West of the County, will meet every other month to give their views of where they would like to influence the decisions made by senior Social Services Managers.

The views of these groups will be fed directly to members of the public that sit on the Directorate Involvement Group who meet regularly with senior management to discuss concerns.

The next meetings will be held as follows:

- West Kent – Tuesday, 10 May 2011 from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Maidstone Support Centre, Marsham Street, Maidstone, ME14 1HH
- East Kent – Thursday, 12 May 2011 from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Marlow Innovation Centre, Stirling Way, Ramsgate, CT12 6NA.

If you would like more information or would like to be kept informed of these new and exciting groups to have ‘Your Say’, you can email, write or telephone your concerns or agenda items for consideration to:

LINK Contact: East

Name: Cate Boland
Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596709
Email: cate@kentlink.org

LINK Contact: West

Clive Brock
01303 297050 / 07976 596410
clive@kentlink.org

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

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. NHS West Kent rolls out next phase of Summary Care Record programme

Information

Following the successful introduction of Summary Care Records in a number of West Kent GP practices at the beginning of 2010, the next wave of surgeries to participate in the UK wide scheme will begin to send out patient letters in the coming weeks.

The Summary Care Record (SCR) is an electronic record which will give healthcare staff faster, easier access to essential information about patients, to help provide safe treatment

when needed in an emergency or out-of-hours.

Only authorised NHS healthcare staff directly involved in supporting or providing a patient's treatment can access SCRs. Patients can also view their SCR at any time through a secure website called Healthspace which may be accessed at: www.healthspace.nhs.uk

Patients from the following GP practices will receive an information pack explaining the scheme and offering them the choice to opt out:

- Chalk Surgery - Gravesend
- Churchill Medical Group, Allington & Lockmeadow Clinics - Maidstone
- Dartford West Health Centre (Maple Practice)
- Grove Park Surgery - Maidstone
- St Andrews Medical Centre - Tunbridge Wells
- Stockett Lane Surgery - Maidstone
- Summerhouse Medical Practice - Bexley
- The Elmdene & Bean Surgeries - Greenhithe
- The Orchard Medical Centre - Maidstone
- The Snodland Medical Practice
- Wallis Avenue Surgery – Maidstone
- Woodlands Health Centre - Paddock Wood.

For more information contact Emily Teller, Head of Communications, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375200, email Emily.teller@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.westkentpct.nhs.uk

2. Possible integration of Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

Information

A range of collaborative working has been taking place between Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust over the past year. This work has incorporated both clinical and non-clinical services.

The proposed changes to the NHS in the Health and Social Care Bill, as well as the increasing financial pressures, mean that they will be faced with some significant challenges over the coming years. In this context the Boards have not only been considering how to ensure long-term clinical and financial sustainability, but also how to improve the services offered to local people. After careful considerations, Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Boards have agreed to explore the feasibility of bringing the two trusts together as one organisation.

The main priority for both trusts will continue to be the provision of safe, effective and specialist healthcare to local patients. Integration of the two trusts could:

- reduce management costs, putting savings directly back into patient care
- offer the broadest range of core services and treatments to the highest standards of care for the growing local populations
- provide local patients with the specialist services they need, preventing the need for them to make long journeys to other hospitals; for example, to London

- maximise the use of each hospital's facilities and estate
- share best practice to improve patient care and experience.

The entire process will be open to scrutiny. The trusts will consult with staff as well as with patients, the public, governors, members, GPs, commissioners and local authorities. Any decision will be subject to a thorough process requiring approval from the Department of Health and Monitor, the foundation trust regulator.

It is anticipated that feasibility work will be complete within a timeframe that would allow approval processes to be complete by April 2012.

The trusts believe that integration could help protect those aspects of both hospitals which already represent the very best of the NHS, and has the potential to create an even stronger range of services fit for 21st century healthcare.

For more information contact Yasmin Khan, Head of Communications, Medway NHS Foundation Trust, Medway Maritime Hospital, Windmill Road, Gillingham, ME7 5NY, telephone 01634 833852, email yasmin.khan@medway.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.medway.nhs.uk

3. NHS West Kent to offer 24-hour emotional support

Information

West Kent will soon be amongst a handful of places in England to offer residents 24-hour confidential, emotional support, free of charge.

From 1 April 2011, support from the helpline Mental Health Matters will be available round the clock in Medway and Kent.

Previously, the helpline - 0800 107 0160 - was open in the evenings and at weekends but was closed in the daytime during the week.

The increase in hours is being funded by mental health commissioners in Kent and Medway and the two local authorities and reflects the success of Mental Health Matters (the voluntary organisation that runs this helpline) in helping people who are distressed.

People can also chat 'live' with a counsellor by email if they prefer at: timeonline@mentalhealthmatters.co.uk

For more information contact Emily Teller, Head of Communications, NHS West Kent, Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, TN9 1RE, telephone 01732 375200, email emily.teller@wkpct.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.westkentpct.nhs.uk

4. Kent Dyspraxia Association roadshow

Information

The Kent Dyspraxia Association (KeDA) aims to raise awareness of Dyspraxia, as well as raising the profile of their organisation. To achieve this, they are arranging a series of 'roadshows' in which they will be visiting different areas in Kent and giving talks and workshops on Dyspraxia.

The first event will be held in Maidstone on Thursday, 28 April 2011 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at the Community Support Centre in Marsham Street. Entrance to the roadshow is free!

Anyone wishing to reserve a place should contact Barbara Neill, Kent Dyspraxia Association email adults@dyspraxia-kent.org.uk or visit the website: www.keda.org.uk/

5. Change in times for concessionary bus passes

Information

From April 2011, Kent County Council (KCC) will take responsibility for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) in Kent. ENCTS passes provide free local bus travel for elderly and disabled people.

Government funding has been reduced and KCC will receive less money for the scheme than the districts had previously. As a result KCC will operate a national standard scheme.

From 1 April 2011 passes will be accepted for travel from 9.30am to 11.00pm Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and on bank holidays. Passengers boarding buses outside Kent (including Medway) will travel according to the conditions of the Local Transport Authority.

For the past three years, KCC has provided additional funding to allow pass holders to travel from 9.00am on weekdays. The need for the change in times is unavoidable, given the level of Government cuts.

For more information contact Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ, telephone 08458 247247, email county.hall@kent.gov.uk or visit the website: www.kent.gov.uk

6. GPs and the management of Fibromyalgia

Information

Arthritis Research UK has published advice for GPs on the management of the Fibromyalgia syndrome in primary care.

This advice, written by a GP from Stafford, emphasises that effective management of Fibromyalgia syndrome is usually multi-disciplinary. The advice states that it is important that GPs adopt a holistic, tailor-made approach to each patient with the condition. The GP is in a strong position to select which other agencies may be best placed to assist in the management of a patient's condition.

The advice is clear that there is no test for Fibromyalgia and that diagnosing is “ . . . often a diagnosis of exhaustive exclusion”.

Patients with this condition may decide that it is in their best interests to read this five page leaflet so that they may become aware of the up-to-date advice concerning the important role that GPs have in managing their condition.

This advice can be found in the publication below which may be obtained from the Arthritis

Research UK Trading Ltd:
Series 6/Autumn 2010/Hands On no 7

Many thanks to Dawn Weller, Co-ordinator of Fibromyalgia in Tonbridge Support Group for bringing this report to the LINK's attention.

Dawn can be emailed at: fibromyalgia.tonbridge@hotmail.com

For more information contact Arthritis Research UK Trading Ltd, James Nicolson Link, Clifton Moor, York, YO30 4XX, telephone 0300 790 0400, email arc@bradshawsdirect.co.uk or visit the website: www.arthritisresearchuk.org/order-pubs

7. Age Concern Maidstone are holding FREE NHS health checks

Information

During April, Age Concern Maidstone are holding FREE NHS health checks for people aged between 55 and 74.

The health checks will be held on:

- Thursday, 14 April 2011 - Staplehurst Community Hall (Margaret Howard Hall, Chapel Lane) 12.00pm to 4.00pm
- Friday, 15 April 2011 - Fusion at Parkwood 9.30am to 4.00pm
- Wednesday, 20 April 2011 - Age Concern Maidstone at Mill Street 9.00am to 4.00pm
- Wednesday, 27 April 2011- Age Concern Maidstone at Mill Street 9.00am to 4.00pm.

If you would like further information or to book an appointment, contact Katie Frogley, 11 Mill Street, Maidstone, ME15 6XW, telephone 01622 753618, email katiefrogley@googlemail.com or visit the website: www.ageconcernmaidstone.org.uk/

Consultations - have your say

1. Care Pathway and Care Programme Approach policy consultation

Consultation: respond by 18 April 2011

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) has updated its Care Programme Approach policy which can be viewed using the following link:
www.kmpt.nhs.uk/cpa

The Trust would like to hear your views and any comments you may have for consideration before it is adopted by the Trust.

Please provide any comments directly to Rebecca Lowe no later than Monday, 18 April 2011 to ensure that your views can be considered.

For more information contact Rebecca Lowe, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, 35 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, Maidstone, ME19 4AX, telephone 01732 520400 ext 4714, email carepathways@kmpt.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.kmpt.nhs.uk/cpa

2. Pharmacy application – Deal

Consultation: respond by Sunday, 8 May 2011

Applications from Paydens Limited have been received to relocate their pharmacy from 17 Queen Street, Deal to the new Health Centre in St Richards Road, Deal. They have also submitted a preliminary consent exemption application to open a pharmacy for at least 100 hours a week at Queen Street, Deal.

Comments are invited to the Kent Primary Care Agency by Sunday, 8 May 2011.

For more Information contact Debra Bell, Pharmacy Contracts Manager, Kent Primary Care Agency, 11 Station Road, Maidstone, ME14 1QH, email Debbie.bell1@nhs.net or telephone 01622 655148.

3. Pharmacy 100 hour application – Faversham

Consultation: respond by Saturday, 14 May 2011

Kent Primary Care Agency, on behalf of NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, has received a 100 hour application from Community Pharmacies (UK) for a pharmacy at Newton Place Surgery, Newton Road, Faversham, ME13 8FH.

Your written comments on the application are invited by Saturday, 14 May 2011.

For more information contact Debra Bell, Kent Primary Care Agency, 11 Station Road, Maidstone, ME14 1QH, email Debbie.bell1@nhs.net or telephone 01622 655148.

Expenses

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

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

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.00pm

(Answerphone available out of hours)
