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*The third edition of **Kent LINK into Local HealthWatch** is enclosed with this Bulletin.*

This Newsletter is published monthly and will update you on what is happening around the development of HealthWatch, both locally in Kent and nationally.

If you want to get more involved in this exciting development, please read the Newsletter where contact details are available.

LINK activities – find out more, get involved

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

1. Public Meeting – Proposed Integration of Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

Date for your diary!

A meeting has been arranged to enable the public to give their views on the proposal to integrate the Trusts responsible for managing Medway Maritime and Darent Valley Hospitals.

This meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 19 October at 5.00pm and will take place at Fleet Leisure Centre, Nelson Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, DA11 7EE.**

Representatives of the two Trusts will attend to explain the reason behind this proposal and there will be an opportunity to discuss the issues further and ask questions.

If you would like to book a place at this Event, contact Sylvia at the Kent LINK by email sylvia@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01303 298385 / 01303 297050.

LINK Contact:

Name: Clive Brock

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596410

Email: clive@kentlink.org

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2. Swale Public Meeting

Update

At a Kent LINK meeting held at the Minster Working Men's Club on 22 September 2011, local people were able to raise their concerns about healthcare services on the Isle of Sheppey. Gillian Sainsbury, Clinical Services Manager, Kent Community Health NHS Trust and Kallie Heyburn, Senior Locality Commissioner – Swale, NHS Kent and Medway, were amongst the representatives from the stakeholders who attended to answer questions from the public. The notes from the meeting will be available on the LINK's website shortly.

Those who attended the meeting were invited to join a new LINK Locality Group for the Swale area, to give local people and communities a stronger voice when decisions around their health or social care are being discussed. See the next article for further information.

LINK Contact:

Name: Cate Boland

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596709

Email: cate@kentlink.org

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3. Two new LINK Locality Groups

Get involved!

Plans are well underway to set up two pilot LINK Locality Groups in Kent – one for the

Swale area and one for the Dartford area. The first meetings have been booked for:

- Swale Thursday, 17 November 2011
- Dartford Friday, 18 November 2011.

The two new LINK Groups will help to gather views and experiences of local people and communities and pass these to those organisations who provide and make decisions about the health and social care services in the areas.

More information, including where the meetings are to be held and timings, will be provided shortly. In the meantime, if you want to get involved or have any questions, contact the LINK.

LINK Contact - West Kent:

Name: Clive Brock
Telephone: 01303 297050
Mobile : 07976 596410
Email: clive@kentlink.org

LINK Contact - East Kent

Name: Louise Murrell
Telephone: 01303 297050
Mobile : 07976 596913
Email: louise@kentlink.org

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4. LINK invites people to join their Mental Health Network

Update

At the Kent LINK Community Engagement Event held in Sittingbourne on 4 October 2011, Kent and Medway LINKs published their Mental Health Network Consultation Report.

The report sets out where investments can be made to Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Crisis Intervention, Carers Support and the redesign of Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust's services.

Contact the LINK if you would like to be involved in this project, to take an active role in monitoring the improvements to services, or would like to be kept informed of the progress.

LINK Contact:

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

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5. HealthWatch online live web chat

Update

Members of the Care Quality Commission HealthWatch Team will be holding a live web chat with the HealthWatch online community on Tuesday, 25 October 2011 from 10.00am to 11.30am. To take part please email healthwatch@nunwood.com and you will then receive an email asking you to register your details

During October 2011, the National HealthWatch Team will be publishing a set up plan on HealthWatch England which will feature details of the timeline for HealthWatch England. It will be available to the online community and on the HealthWatch England page of the Care Quality Commission's website.

If you would like to register to join the community, email healthwatch@nunwood.com and

you will then receive a confirmation asking you to register online.

For more information, visit the website:

www.cqc.org.uk/aboutcqc/whatwedo/improvinghealthandsocialcare/healthwatch.cfm

LINK Contact:

Name: Rich Beckwith

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07969 468507

Email: richard@kmn-ltd.co.uk

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6. LINK Authorised Visitors – can you help?

Get involved!

In November 2011, Kent LINK Authorised Visitors will be needed to help with the gathering of information on patients' experiences of the health services they have received.

Authorised Visitors will be required to spend a half day at hospitals throughout Kent in order to speak to patients, carers and visitors about their experiences. The information gathered will be used to update the Kent LINKs' comments on all NHS Trusts' Quality Accounts, which will be published in 2012.

If you are an existing Authorised Visitor and can spare time to help, it would be appreciated. For more information contact the LINK.

LINK Contact:

Name: Heather Wells

Telephone: 01303 297050

Email: heather@kmn-ltd.co.uk

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7. LINK – on the road for mental health

Information

The Kent LINK and a number of mental health organisations have been in attendance at Gateways across Kent during World Mental Health Week to show what support is available locally, including the new Mental Health Network that involves local people in helping to make health services better.

LINK Contact:

Name: Louise Murrell

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913

Email: louise@kentlink.org

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8. LINK Projects – update

Residential Care Homes

The Kent LINK Authorised Visitors carried out visits to 35 Care Homes during August and September 2011 to look at cleanliness of communal areas, their environment, social interaction and communication between residents and staff. The report is currently being written which will outline the findings and recommendations for improvements.

LINK Community Ambassadors

The Community Ambassadors project is getting under way with LINK participants coming forward to be part of the project group that will oversee the project. Volunteers taking part in the LINK's Equality Workshops are being invited to volunteer as Ambassadors.

Ambassadors will receive training and support to provide, amongst other roles, a way for their community or group to have a voice in health and social care.

Cervical Screening Uptake in West Kent

The Kent LINK has been working with Canterbury Christ Church University to investigate reasons why young women are not coming forward for cervical screening in some parts of West Kent. The final draft of the report is expected to be discussed by the Kent LINK Governors' Group on 19 October 2011 and will be published on the Kent LINK website thereafter.

If you would like a hard copy of the report, contact Heather Wells at the Kent LINK.

Youth Project

The Youth Project is well under way. A Young Persons Health Event took place on 7 October 2011 at the River Centre, Tonbridge. The day was very successful and a report will be published in due course.

Other events attended include:

- Youth Forums around the area, particularly discussing the new Local HealthWatch
- Various Youth Advisory Groups
- The Participation Working Group of the Kent Children's Trust.

We currently have dates planned for visiting schools / colleges before Christmas.

If you would like to be involved or more information, contact Becky by email rebecca@kentlink.org or telephone 01303 297050 / 07976 596797.

Hygiene, Disinfection and Patient Experience in Hospitals Project

The report of this LINK project is due to be discussed by Governors on 19 October 2011.

Outpatients Project

This is another LINK project nearing completion - the last remaining visits are being completed in October (some have been delayed by the clinics being cancelled by the hospitals).

If you have any questions about any of the above projects please contact the Kent LINK.

LINK Contact:

Name: Heather Wells

Telephone: 01303 297050

Email: heather@kmn-ltd.co.uk

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9. LINK Governors' Group – update

Welcome!

The Governors' Group would like to welcome Mike Dowden and Veronika Segall Jones as

new Kent LINK Governors.

Date for your diary

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

- Wednesday, 16 November 2011 from 10.00am to 1.00pm
Maidstone Community Support Centre, 39 - 48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, ME14 1HH.

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

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

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

LINK Contact:

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260724

Email: steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk

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10. LINK Priorities Panel – update

Welcome!

The Priorities Panel would like to welcome Diane Conway, Tony Monk, David Morris and Tony Wellsted as new Panel members.

Issues and date for your diary

The Priorities Panel are currently reviewing issues around:

- Changes to maternity services provision in Dover
- Cutbacks in the IVF service
- Closure of Scarborough Ward, Ashford
- GP Surgeries using 084 telephone numbers
- Stroke Services in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.

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

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

- Wednesday, 2 November 2011 from 1.00pm to 3.30pm
Salvation Army Centre, 74 – 80 Union Street, Maidstone, ME14 1ED.

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

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

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

LINK Contact:

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260724

Email: steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk

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11. External Representatives – meetings ‘Round up’

New appointments

After a very successful Selection Event, Keith Hayes, John Richards, Jeff Smith, Alex Turner and Junetta Whorwell have been appointed as Kent LINK External Representatives.

LINK Governors have appointed John Gallimore to coordinate the work of the LINK’s External Representatives. John aims to see / speak with all of those Representatives in the near future.

Meetings update

Kent LINK External Representatives have represented the LINK recently at the following meetings:

- Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, 29 June 2011 - *Jim Hancock*
- Transport for Health Working Group (THWG), 1 July 2011 - *Dave Townsend*
- Patient Experience Group, 7 July 2011 - *Cate Jackson*
- Maidstone Community Support Centre AGM, 19 July 2011 - *Ray Harris*
- Health and Wellbeing Workshop, 20 July 2011 - *Roger Kendall*
- Kent Community Health NHS Trust, 21 July 2011 - *Cate Jackson*
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 22 July 2011 - *Roger Kendall*
- Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, 27 July 2011 - *Jim Hancock*
- South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, 28 July 2011 - *Robin Kenworthy*
- Local Health and Wellbeing Board Early Implementer, 28 July 2011 - *Roger Kendall*
- Patient Experience Committee, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, 1 August 2011 - *Peta Groom*
- Health and Social Care Integration Programme - Communication and Engagement Group, 31 August 2011 - *Cate Jackson*.

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

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

If you would like hard copy documents of any reports, please contact us.

LINK Contact:

Name: Steph Moir

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07875 260742

Email: steph@kmn-ltd.co.uk

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12. LINK Project Development Workers – updates

The Kent LINK Project Development Workers have represented the LINK in the last months at the following meetings:

East Kent – Louise Murrell

- Citizen Engagement Network - meeting to discuss joint working between statutory organisations when engaging and involving communities
- Kent Community Health NHS Trust pre-Board Meeting to support the LINK's External Representative
- Kent Community Health NHS Trust Board Meeting to support the External Representative and gather information on the Trust's activities and future plans
- South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust to keep up to date on the Trust's achievements and plans for the future
- East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust Annual General Meeting to keep up to date on the Trust's achievements and plans for the future
- LINK / Swale public meeting to help facilitate public question and answer session with NHS organisations
- HealthWatch workshops to participate in the development of Local HealthWatch
- Thanet Practice Based Commissioning meeting to discuss future engagement of the local population especially when Clinical Commissioning Groups start
- Locality Planning and Monitoring Group meeting in Ramsgate to promote the LINK
- Kent Community Health NHS Trust Voluntary Sector Involvement Event to promote the LINK
- Dover District Council, Health and Wellbeing Board, Voluntary Sector involvement meeting to hear how Dover District Council proposes to involve the voluntary and community sector in their Health and Wellbeing Board
- Dover District Community and Voluntary Network meeting to promote the LINK and network with local organisations
- Kent LINK Community Engagement Event in Sittingbourne.

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

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

LINK Contact:

Name: Louise Murrell

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913

Email: louise@kentlink.org

West Kent – Clive Brock

- Joint meeting of the East and West Area Involvement Groups (these groups focus on social care issues within the county)

- One-off meeting about future arrangements to ensure that there continues to be GP cover in two practices in West Kent
- Meeting with NHS Kent and Medway to discuss setting up Patient Participation Groups in West Kent
- Meetings with LINK Governors about the proposed integration of Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
- Seminar arranged by Kent Community Health NHS Trust about how they can work effectively with the voluntary and community sectors
- Meeting arranged by the Family and Social Care Department of Kent County Council to enhance liaison with social care providers working in North Kent
- Tunbridge Wells Disabled and Sensory Impairment Group
- Annual General Meeting of NHS West Kent Primary Care Trust
- Public Board meeting of NHS Kent and Medway
- Patient Experience Committee of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
- Kent LINK Community Engagement Event to launch the LINK's Mental Health Strategy
- Annual General Meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum.

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

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

LINK Contact:

Name: Clive Brock

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596410

Email: clive@kentlink.org

Mid Kent – Cate Boland

- Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) Community Engagement Strategy meeting to develop opportunities of working more closely with the Trust
- Various Local Planning and Monitoring Groups to develop the mental health network
- Equality and diversity workshops for people who are homeless and people who have high support needs to raise the profile of LINK and develop the community ambassador initiative
- The Launch of the Live it Well website where LINK will advertise opportunities to develop the mental health network
- KMPT Annual General Meeting to keep up to date with the Trust's achievements and plans for the future
- Dover Detainee Annual General Meeting to hear of their achievements and plans for the future
- Kent County Council meeting to discuss how people will be able to participate in developing services for the future
- Swale public meeting to facilitate questions from the public to NHS organisations.

LINK Contact:

Name: Cate Boland

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596709

Email: cate@kentlink.org

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

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Notices – for action or information

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

1. Health and Wellbeing Board (Shadow)

Update

At a meeting held at County Hall in Maidstone on 28 September 2011, the Health and Wellbeing Board met to discuss, amongst other things, their role and how they will ensure local people are involved in decisions about commissioning of services.

The meeting was attended by all leads of the Clinical Commissioning Groups and heads of commissioning services in Kent. County Councillor Roger Gough was elected Chair. The Kent LINK representative is Roger Kendall.

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2. Care Quality Commission – undertaking review of residential homes for people with learning disabilities

Get involved!

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is undertaking a review of 150 residential homes for people with learning disabilities.

If you have any comments that you would like to pass forward about local residential homes for people with learning disabilities, please contact the LINK. The Kent LINK will then pass this information on to the CQC on your behalf.

LINK Contact:

Name: Heather Wells

Telephone: 01303 297050

Email: heather@kmn-ltd.co.uk

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3. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome – Ramsgate

Can you help?

Do you suffer from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome / Myalgic Encephalopathy (CFS / ME)? CFS / ME is an illness that can affect people in different ways but the most common symptom is persistent and disabling physical and mental fatigue. This can include poor memory, concentration and other cognitive difficulties such as mixing up words or finding it hard to follow conversations.

Another problem is the lack of a specific diagnostic test. Many people say that this is one of the most difficult aspects of having CFS / ME, as there is no 'proof' that they have a real

(and sometimes very severe) illness. They often worry that they may not be believed, or that friends, family or the medical profession, do not see symptoms as being 'real' or part of a genuine illness.

Do you suffer from CFS / ME but have a sympathetic GP in Ramsgate? A new local resident who has recently been diagnosed with CFS would like to register with a GP in Ramsgate, can you recommend one? Please contact the Kent LINK if you can recommend a local GP.

LINK Contact:

Name: Louise Murrell

Telephone: 01303 297050 / 07976 596913

Email: louise@kentlink.org

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4. Care Quality Commission publishes annual state of care report

Information

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published its third annual report into the state of health and adult social care in England. The report covers the year end to March 2011 and is the first report to look at the new system of regulation.

The report is divided into four main sections:

- The shape of health and social care provision
- Access to care services
- Choice and control
- Quality and safety.

The report also includes case studies looking at how improvements in standards have been made by services and how the regulatory work has helped drive these improvements.

You can view the report at: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/stateofcare2010-11.cfm>

For more information or a hard copy, contact Elliott Ward, Public Affairs Officer, Care Quality Commission, Finsbury Tower, 103 - 105 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8TG, email Public.Affairs@cqc.org.uk or visit the website: www.cqc.org.uk

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5. Hawkinge Pharmacy – application refused

Update

The Pharmaceutical Regulations Committee considered the application for a new pharmacy in Haven Drive. The Committee decided that the existing provision for the neighbourhood was adequate and it was neither necessary nor expedient to grant the application in order to secure in the neighbourhood a full and adequate pharmaceutical service. The Committee therefore **refused** the application.

For more information, contact Sheilagh Jeffery, Performer List Manager, Kent Primary Care Agency, Faith House, 2 St Faiths Street, Maidstone, ME14 1LL, email Kent-pca.pharmacy@nhs.net or telephone 01622 655133.

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6. Health and Wellbeing Board – Dover

Get involved!

Dover District Council is setting up a Health and Wellbeing Board to improve health and social care services and the health and wellbeing of local people. They want to hear from local people how best to engage and involve local organisations and groups working in Dover in this new Board.

There online survey is available at: <http://www.dover.gov.uk/snapsurveys/hw/index.htm>

The next event is planned for Wednesday, 2 November 2011 in the Council Chamber, Dover District Council, Honeywood Road, Whitfield from 6.15pm. Places are limited so please book in advance.

For more information, contact Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PJ, telephone 01304 872314, email healthandwellbeing@dover.gov.uk or visit the website: http://www.dover.gov.uk/health_wellbeing.aspx

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7. Kent Community Health NHS Trust – Patient / Public Representatives needed

Get involved!

Kent Community Health NHS Trust (KCHT) is looking for patients or carers who can spare a few hours every two months on a voluntary basis to join their Patient Experience Group. The Group oversees the Trust's Patient Experience Programme (which includes using patient satisfaction surveys, comment cards, and online feedback to identify service improvements) and all other types of patient engagement.

Meetings are from 10.15am to 12.45pm every two months, either in Ashford or Maidstone. Volunteers are eligible to have their travel expenses reimbursed.

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

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8. Trust Board Meetings

Dates for your diary

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Wednesday, 26 October 2011 at 10.00am at 35 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4AX.

For more information, contact Heidi Watts, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Eastern and Coastal Headquarters, St Martin's Hospital, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, CT1 1AX, telephone 01227 812205, email Heidi.watts@kmpt.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.kmpt.nhs.uk

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Wednesday, 2 November 2011 at 12.45pm in the Education Centre, Pembury Hospital,

Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4QJ.

For more information, contact Sharon Chapman, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4QJ, telephone 01622 226411, email sharon.chapman2@nhs.net or visit the website: www.mtw.nhs.uk

Kent Community Health NHS Trust

Thursday, 24 November 2011. The venue has yet to be confirmed.

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

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

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

Monday, 28 November 2011 at 10.00am. The venue has yet to be confirmed.

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

NHS Kent and Medway

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 from 9.30am to 1.30pm at The Conference Hall, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Ashford Business Point, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0LH.

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

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9. Developing Public Health England

Information

Public Health England is due to take on its full responsibilities in April 2013 and will be an executive agency of the Department of Health, subject to Parliamentary approval and will integrate the three pillars of public health; health protection, health improvement and health services.

Following the publication of 'Healthy lives, healthy people' in July 2011, a series of public health system reform updates will be published this autumn to complete the operational design of the public health system.

More information on Public Health England can be found on the website: <http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/vision-for-a-new-public-health-system/>

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Consultations - have your say

1. Maternity services consultation launch announced

Consultation

NHS Kent and Medway and East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust are launching their three month consultation on the future of maternity services in East Kent on Friday, 14 October 2011.

They will host public meetings in November and December 2011 to give people the chance to have their say.

The 28 page consultation document, plus a 12 page summary version and online feedback form, will be available from 12.00noon on Monday, 14 October 2011 on the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent website: www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/maternityreview

Paper copies will be available from GP surgeries, children's centres and birthing centres. Copies are also available from Haniya Qasim, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent (contact details below).

Public meeting dates:

- Dover - Thursday, 3 November 2011 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Dover Town Hall, Biggin Street, Dover, CT16 1DL
- Canterbury - Tuesday, 8 November 2011 from 10.00am to 12.00noon
Northgate Community Centre, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YX
- Ashford - Friday, 18 November 2011 from 12.30pm to 2.00pm
The Ray Allen Centre, Stanhope Road, Stanhope, Ashford, TN23 5RN
- Faversham - Tuesday, 22 November 2011 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm and 5.00pm to 7.00pm
The Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8NY
- Folkestone - Tuesday, 29 November 2011 from 10.00am to 12.00noon
University Centre Folkestone, The Glassworks, Mill Bay, Tontine Street, Folkestone, CT20 1JG
- Dover - Thursday, 1 December 2011 from 12.00noon to 2.00pm
The Ark Dover, Noah's Ark Road, Dover, CT17 0DD
- Margate - Monday, 12 December 2011 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm
Millmead Children's Centre, Dane Valley Road, Margate, CT9 3RU
- Canterbury - Tuesday, 13 December 2011 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm
The Westgate Hall, Westgate Hall Road, Canterbury, CT1 2BT.

For more information, contact Haniya Qasim, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, Brook House, John Wilson Business Park, Whitstable, CT5 3DD, email Haniya.Qasim01@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or telephone 01227 791281.

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2. Caring For Our Future Consultation

Consultation: Response by Friday, 2 December 2011

Recently, the Government launched 'Caring for our future: shared ambitions for care and support' to engage with people who use care and support services, carers, local councils, care providers and the voluntary sector about the priorities for improving care and support.

Caring for our future is an opportunity to bring together the recommendations from the Law Commission and the Commission on Funding of Care and Support with the Government's Vision for Adult Social Care.

The engagement exercise will run until Friday, 2 December 2011 and the results from the discussions will inform a Government White Paper and a progress report on funding reform that will be published in spring 2012.

For more information or hard copy documents, contact Caring for our future, Department of Health, Area 117, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, email caringforourfuture@dh.gsi.gov.uk or visit the website: www.caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk

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Expenses

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

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

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Contact Information

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

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

Tel: 01303 297050

Email: info@kentlink.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.00pm

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