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## **News**

### **1. Kent LINK Participant Induction Events**

The first induction events are now being planned for Kent LINK participants and are scheduled to take place as shown below. Further information on the content of the day will be available shortly; however, the role and responsibilities of the LINK and participants will be covered during the sessions. If you would like to book a place at one of these events, please contact the administrator shown below. Please advise of any special or dietary requirements when booking your place.

Mid Kent: Friday, 20 March 2009  
Salvation Army Hall, Union Street, Maidstone, ME14 1ED  
10.00am – 3.30pm  
Becky – 07976 596913 / 01303 297050

West Kent: Wednesday, 25 March 2009  
The Clocktower Pavillion, St Mary's Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU.  
10.00am – 3.30pm  
Becky – 07976 596913 / 01303 297050

East Kent: Tuesday, 10 March 2009  
To be confirmed  
10.00am – 3.30pm  
Kirsty – 07976 594541 / 01303 297050

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### **2. Participants choice (when and where do you want us to be?)**

The Kent LINK would like to hold three large community engagement events this year but we would like you to tell us where they should be! We want to involve as many people from all walks of life and from every corner of Kent in what we do. If you think we may not get to your part of the County invite us to your event or ask us to host a specific event about an issue. Tell us what is important to you!

Contact Cate Boland by e-mail [cate@kentlink.org](mailto:cate@kentlink.org) or telephone 07976 5696709.

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### **3. Contract awarded for new £20m Dover Hospital**

Building contractor, Interserve, has announced that they have been awarded a £20m contract to create a new community hospital in central Dover. It is said that the project will involve the construction of a variety of clinical facilities, including:

- Minor injuries unit

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- Outpatients department
  - Minor Procedures Suite
  - Satellite Renal dialysis
  - Birthing Unit
  - Child Health
  - Day Hospital
  - Therapy services
  - Diagnostic services

The hospital is to be located in the centre of town at Maison Dieu Road, close to the Citizens' Advice Bureau. Construction is expected to begin this autumn, with the hospital opened for use in the summer of 2011.

Some concerns have been expressed by LINK participants with local knowledge at the choice of the proposed site because of a known history of flooding. If you have any views on this or other matter which it would like the LINK to take up with the East Kent Hospitals University Trust please contact us in writing to the Kent LINK, Kent & Medway Networks Ltd, FREEPOST NAT17761, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4BR, telephone 01303 297050, email [info@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:info@kmn-ltd.co.uk) or via the website: <http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/index.php?q=17>

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#### **4. New Aylesham Health Centre Opening Spring 2009**

A meeting will be held on Thursday, 12 February 2009 from 11.00am to 7.00pm at St Finbarr's Church Hall, Market Square, Aylesham, CT3 3EZ (next door to the new health centre site). Drop in and find out what services will be in the centre, how you can be involved in its future and meet the staff and practice manager who will work there. Refreshments will be provided.

For further information contact Ruth Brown, Patient & Public Engagement Manager - Dover & Thanet localities (Lead for Primary Care & Dementia), Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT, Protea House, Marine Parade, Dover, CT17 9HQ, email [ruth.brown@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk](mailto:ruth.brown@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk) or telephone 01304 216858.

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#### **5. Pharmacies and more pharmacy issues**

- Ashford
- Challock
- Charing
- Harrietsham
- Headcorn
- Lenham

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- 
- Maidstone
  - Penshurst
  - Sutton Valence

The Kent LINK cut its teeth on an obscure subject recently. This related to a consultation being conducted by a little known government body called the Kent Primary Care Agency. They were conducting a consultation to try and define whether an area around Tenterden was rural in nature. This is because GPs in areas defined as rural can apply to dispense medicines for their patients – an important issue for many rural communities where public transport to a town, where there is a pharmacy, is not always good.

The LINK attempted to raise awareness in the area, via the media and by placing relevant documents in local libraries. Views were expressed via our website and through our office which resulted in the LINK responding on their behalf. This response can be seen on our website or we can send a copy to those without internet access.

For further information contact [info@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:info@kmn-ltd.co.uk) or telephone 01303 297050.

See the consultation section for further information about consultations relating to local pharmacy consultation in an area near you.

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## **6. GPs dispensing rights in Ashford rural area**

The Kent Primary Care Agency (KPCA) is seeking views on whether GPs in a defined rural area around Ashford should continue to have rights to dispense medicines from their surgeries.

The LINK has been asked for its views on this application and any comments you would like the LINK to convey to the KPCA by 15 March 2009. This can be in writing to the Kent LINK, Kent & Medway Networks Ltd, FREEPOST NAT17761, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4BR, email [info@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:info@kmn-ltd.co.uk) or via the website: <http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/index.php?q=17>

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## **7. Pharmacy application - Penshurst**

Views are being sought on an application by Mr D Singh to open a new pharmacy at The Surgery, Village Hall, Penshurst, Kent.

The LINK has been asked for its views on this application and any comments you would like the LINK to convey to the Kent Primary Care Agency (KPCA) by 6 February 2009. This can be in writing to the Kent LINK, Kent & Medway Networks Ltd, FREEPOST NAT17761, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4BR, email [info@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:info@kmn-ltd.co.uk) or via the website:

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<http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/index.php?q=17>

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## **8. Pharmacy application - Maidstone**

Views are being sought on applications by:

- Tesco Stores Ltd to open a pharmacy at Tesco Superstore, Grovewood Drive, Weaving, Maidstone, Kent
- Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd to open a pharmacy at Sainsbury's Stores, Romney Place, Maidstone, Kent

The LINK has been asked for its views on this application and any comments you would like the LINK to convey to the Kent Primary Care Agency (KPCA) by 13 March 2009. This can be in writing to the Kent LINK, Kent & Medway Networks Ltd, FREEPOST NAT17761, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4BR, email [info@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:info@kmn-ltd.co.uk) or via the website: <http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/index.php?q=17>

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## **9. Swale Community Empowerment Network**

The recent Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has highlighted there is a need to reach out to the community more and allow its voice on the LSP - both at board level and sub group. It is recognised that the LSP is not reaching its community, it is not engaged nor has a voice regarding decision making.

To address this issue Swale Borough Council is working in partnership with Swale Council for Voluntary Service to develop a Community empowerment Network for Swale (SCEN). The SCEN will evolve from the existing Voluntary Sector Forum that is currently administered by Swale CVS.

Funding has been secured to help support this development and raise awareness and get people involved from the voluntary sector in activities of the LSP and to raise the voice of the third sector in Swale.

The funding will be used to run two community partners' days.

- A partnership and funding event - 2 March 2009 at the Sheppey Healthy Living Centre, Sheerness from 10.00am – 2.30pm
- A partnership and volunteering event - 30 March 2009 at the Wyvern Hall, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne from 10.00am – 2.30pm

For further information contact Julia Watling, Team Support and Volunteer Officer, Swale Council for Voluntary Services, Centre House, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 4NU or email [julia@swalecvcs.co.uk](mailto:julia@swalecvcs.co.uk) or telephone 01795 473828.

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## **10. Dartford East and West Local Children's Services Partnership, Voluntary and Community Sector Workshop: "Developing Services and Commissioning arrangements".**

Those interested are invited to attend engagement workshops being held in partnership with the Dartford East and Dartford West Local Children's Services. The aim of the workshop is to update voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people on the current development of Children's Trusts in Dartford.

The workshop will also focus on sharing and developing commissioning arrangements known to date and also an opportunity to discuss information sharing processes with the voluntary and community sectors.

The event will be held on Tuesday, 24 February 2009 from 9.30am – 2.00pm (lunch included) at the Darenth Suite, Acacia Hall, High Street, Dartford DA1 1DJ.

For further information contact The Riverside Community Resource Centre, Dickens Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2JY, telephone 01474 354479, email [main@nwkcvs.org](mailto:main@nwkcvs.org) or visit the following website:

[www.ktcr.org.uk/homepage](http://www.ktcr.org.uk/homepage)

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## **11. Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT) - Come and talk to us about healthcare**

Come along to a local roadshow where you can learn more about plans to improve health services in East Kent during the next five years.

Light refreshments will be available and you will have the chance to talk to health professionals who commission services on your behalf, as well as ask questions of Chief Executive Ann Sutton and her top team on local NHS policies and practices.

There is no need to book, you can just turn up on the day.

### **Roadshow dates**

- **Canterbury:** Kent County Cricket Club - Wednesday, 11 February 9.30am - 12.30pm
- **Faversham:** The Alexander Centre - Tuesday, 17 February 9.30am - 12.30pm
- **Margate:** The Winter Gardens – Thursday, 19 February 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- **Ashford:** Julie Rose Stadium – Tuesday, 24 February 2.30pm - 5.30pm
- **Folkestone:** The Pavilion, East Cliff – Wednesday, 25 February 10.00am - 1.00pm
- **Dover:** Town Hall – Thursday, 26 February 2.00pm - 5.00pm

For further information contact Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT, Brook House, John

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Wilson Business Park, Reeves Way, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3DD, telephone 01227 795050 or visit the website:  
[www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk](http://www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk)

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## **12. The state of social care in England 2007 - 2008**

The Commission for Social Care Inspection says that progress on personalised care is patchy. Too few people with complex needs are experiencing personalised care.

Further information is available from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, 33 Greycoat Street, London, SW1P 2QF, telephone 0845 015 0120 or 0191 233 3323 or at the website:

[http://www.csci.org.uk/about\\_csci/news.aspx](http://www.csci.org.uk/about_csci/news.aspx)

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## **13. Dignity in care award**

The Commission for Social Care Inspection People's Award for Dignity in Care is a way to say thank you to health and social care staff and highlight the remarkable work they do.

Further information is available from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, 33 Greycoat Street, London, SW1P 2QF, telephone 0845 015 0120 or 0191 233 3323 or visit the website:

[http://www.csci.org.uk/about\\_csci/news.aspx](http://www.csci.org.uk/about_csci/news.aspx)

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## **14. Five-point plan for alcohol-free childhood**

For the first time, young people and their parents will have clear medical guidance on alcohol consumption. The guidance is to be published for consultation. It will recommend that young people up to the age of 15 should avoid alcohol altogether.

The five-point guidance document will form part of a consultation on alcohol and young people launched by Children Schools and Families Secretary, Ed Balls, Health Secretary, Alan Johnson, and the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson.

For further information contact the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT, email [info@dcsf.gov.uk](mailto:info@dcsf.gov.uk) or telephone 0870 000 2288.

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## **15. Health Profile of England 2008**

First published in 2006, the Health Profile of England provides a collation of national and regional data to provide a baseline against which people can compare data from

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their own Local Health Profile (LHP). The 2008 report updates tables showing regional comparisons and national trends for indicators presented in Local Health Profiles, as well as a wide ranging snapshot of public health and well-being in England and a section on international comparisons.

The Health Profile of England is intended to be of use to public service professionals and officials within the local community - such as local councillors and primary care trust directors of public health - who are in a position to exert influence over the planning, commissioning, procurement and delivery of public health programmes. But the document will also be of interest to a much wider audience - anyone with an interest in the profile of health and health determinants in this country.

The Health Profile of England illustrates progress in respect of a broad range of measures of health determinants and outcomes. It represents a component of the national public health information and intelligence strategy, drawing together a range of evidence to provide a convenient source of public health metrics.

For further information contact the Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website: [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

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## **16. Free treatment for cancer patients - From 1 April**

People being treated for cancer will be eligible for free prescriptions from 1 April and can apply for free prescriptions now. The new scheme, announced by the Prime Minister in September last year, abolishes NHS prescription charges for everyone undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer, or the effects of cancer treatment. Up to 150,000 patients already diagnosed with cancer are expected to benefit, and may save £100 each year in prescription charges.

Application forms can be collected from GP surgeries and oncology clinics and must be countersigned by the patient's GP, hospital doctor or service doctor.

For further information contact the Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website: [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

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## **17. New voluntary register for complementary healthcare**

The Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC) opened its new register on 19 January 2009. For the first time in the UK, members of the public who use a range of complementary healthcare services will be able to check that their practitioner is registered with an independent and robust voluntary registration body.

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For further information contact the Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website: [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

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## **18. Mixed-sex wards to be penalised - NHS Trusts in England which fail to scrap mixed-sex accommodation will be subject to penalties as part of a fresh bid to "all but" eradicate such wards**

**The BBC News reported 29 January 2009:**

Health Secretary Alan Johnson said hospitals would only be paid for the treatment of a patient on a mixed-sex ward if it was clinically justified.

Some 15% of hospital trusts still use at least one open-plan mixed-sex ward.

But while there will be penalties, hospitals will at the same time receive cash to overhaul accommodation.

A "privacy and dignity fund" of £100m is to be made available immediately to enable health authorities to make the necessary adjustments to their accommodation over the next six months.

But if patients are still being accommodated for no good reason on mixed-sex wards by the financial year 2010 - 2011, hospitals will be penalised, Mr Johnson said.

A government source said this meant hospitals would lose up to 2% of their income if they could not prove their mixed-sex accommodation was clinically justifiable.

### **Defining terms**

Under the existing rules on mixed-sex accommodation, wards do not need to be single-sex but patients should be kept in bays divided at the very least by a fixed full-height partition.

Patients should also not be expected to walk past others of the opposite sex to go to washing or toilet facilities.

Intensive care and A&E wards are for practical reasons not included, and the Health Secretary stressed again in his address to NHS Chairs that there are "good, clinical reasons why men and women are cared for in the same accommodation".

But he added: "I want to make it clear today that mixed sex accommodation is no longer tolerable in the NHS, except when it is absolutely clinically necessary."

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Labour pledged to end mixed-sex accommodation in both its 1997 and 2001 manifestos.

But after being granted a Freedom of Information request, the Conservatives revealed earlier this month that 15% of trusts were still just using curtains to divide patients of the opposite sex.

Just days ago, a health service memo also released by the Tories revealed Mr Johnson's frustration with the failure to eradicate mixed-sex wards.

He was quoted as saying that "sane and rational arguments about why it can't be done no longer cut it with me, it's going to happen."

Michael Summer, of the Patients Association, said pledges to end mixed-sex accommodation had been made many times before and "nothing has happened".

"If it really does happen this time we would welcome it, but we just have to wait and see.

"It is one of the issues which really concerns us and one which really upsets patients - and particularly women."

Paul Cann, head of policy at Help the Aged, said £100m should be sufficient for an adequate overhaul.

"Single sex wards may be out of this price range but the goal of single sex accommodation may be possible. This money should be used to end the practice of unisex bathrooms and toilets.

"It should ensure that where wards must be shared, proper privacy can be maintained with more than a flimsy curtain as a divider. Members of the opposite sex should never be asked to share accommodation bays or be exposed before other patients."

Shadow Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said: "Alan Johnson's new plans fall far short of what the NHS needs."

"If Labour were serious about stopping patients being forced to share wards with the opposite sex they would copy our pledge to double the number of single rooms in the NHS.

"Our pledge would allow every patient going into hospital for planned care have a single room if they want one."

Nigel Edwards, director of policy at the NHS Confederation, said penalties could put a stop to mixed-sex wards but their effect on other features of care should be monitored.



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"Providing single sex accommodation across the board could well have an impact on other priorities we are working towards in the NHS like faster turn-around times in accident and emergency and waiting times for surgery.

"The most important consideration must always be patient safety and ensuring that the right treatment is carried out properly and promptly."

Further information is available at [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

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## **19. Health care standards - what do you think?**

Every year local NHS organisations have to declare whether they have met certain national core standards. These cover such things as patient safety, hygiene, privacy and dignity, etc. This is an annual self declaration to a body called the Healthcare Commission. They carry out inspections to about 20% of the NHS to check up on these self declarations. It is, however, open to the LINK to add its own commentary to these declarations. The LINK is intending this year - for the period under review (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009) - to collect participants' views and to work with voluntary sector organisations throughout Kent to gather evidence on health care standards and whether these have been met during the period in question. If you belong to a community / voluntary organisation that represents a group of people who have experience of using different aspects of Kent's health service and wish to work with the LINK on this, please contact us by telephone on 01303 297050 or via the website at: <http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/index.php?q=17>

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## **20. Valuing People Now**

The Department of Health has launched the new cross-Government three-year strategy, Valuing People Now - a strategy for people with learning disabilities. A detailed delivery plan is published alongside the strategy, together with the response to the consultation and further response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights report – 'A Life Like Any Other'. In addition, Valuing People Now responds to the key recommendations of 'Healthcare for All - the report of the independent inquiry chaired by Sir Jonathan Michael'.

For further information contact The Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS, telephone 020 7210 4850 or visit the website: [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

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## **21. Social work taskforce members and remit announced**

Children's Secretary Ed Balls and Health Secretary Alan Johnson have announced the membership of the Social Work Taskforce, set up to undertake a comprehensive review of frontline social work practice.

Further information is available from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT, email [info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone 0870 000 2288 or at the website: [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

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## **22. Increase in Meningococcal type B infections in England**

An increase in meningococcal group B infections (MenB) has been recorded by the Health Protection Agency in late December 2008 and early January of this year for England, although the annual number of cases for 2008 remains similar to previous years. There have been 252 cases of MenB reported in the last four weeks in December and first two weeks of January compared to 198 for the same period the year before. The provisional annual total of MenB infections during 2008 was 1070, similar to the annual totals for 2007 (1076) and 2006 (1011).

Overall the numbers of confirmed meningococcal cases remains low with only 1194 confirmed cases in 2008, lower than 2007 (1256) and continuing the overall downward trend since 1999/2000. A major contribution to this reduction has been the sustained fall in meningococcal C (MenC) cases following the introduction of the MenC vaccine in 1999.

Meningococcal disease is a serious infection caused by a bacterium known as meningococcus which can be found naturally at the back of the throat or nose in about 10% of the population. Many adults and children carry these germs without ill effects. Only rarely do they overcome the body's defences and cause illness.

Dr Mary Ramsay, an immunisation expert at the Health Protection Agency, said: "Thanks to the introduction of the MenC vaccine in 1999 we've seen a decrease in cases due to this strain with only 22 cases last year, compared to 989 cases in 1999. However, we do not yet have a vaccine against the most common group, MenB, and we have seen a significant rise in cases in the last few weeks. It's too early to tell whether this increase will continue or if there is a single cause but as we do see increases in the winter months this is a timely reminder that infection with meningococcal bacteria can cause serious diseases such as meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). Meningitis and septicaemia can occur together or separately and the consequences of which can include permanent disability or death. These diseases can also develop very quickly. This is why it is so important to stay vigilant and be able to recognise the signs and symptoms quickly and seek urgent

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medical help if there is any concern at all."

Meningitis Research Foundation Chief Executive, Christopher Head, said: "The latest figures remind us that meningitis and septicaemia are a significant threat. These deadly diseases can kill in hours. The most important thing you can do to protect your family against MenB is to know the symptoms and act quickly, this could save a life. It is also vital to ensure they have all their immunisations to protect against other kinds of meningitis and septicaemia."

Someone with the infection will become very ill, though not all the symptoms will occur at once. In children and adults symptoms can include:

- a high temperature and / or vomiting
- severe headache
- a stiff neck, aching limbs and joints
- a dislike of bright lights
- drowsiness and / or a purple rash, which does not fade when pressed
- in small babies, a refusal to feed and a high pitched cry
- cold hands and feet

For further information contact the Health Protection Agency, South East Regional Office, 7th Floor, Holborn Gate, 330 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7PP or telephone 0207 759 2842 / 2841 / 2851 or visit the website at: [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

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## **23. NHS South East Coast Best of Health Awards 2009**

Members of the public, patients and carers are urged to give something back by nominating someone from their local health or social care services for the Best of Health Awards 2009.

These annual awards recognise and reward the hard work and excellent services being provided by staff in our local NHS and social care organisations.

It is very important to staff to be nominated by their patients, service users, carers or members of the public as it offers them a real chance to hear how the services are being used, by whom and whether they are offering the best care possible.

The annual awards are organised by NHS South East Coast, the regional headquarters of the NHS. The public are asked to nominate in three categories this year:

- Health and Social Care Professional of the Year
- Unsung Hero
- People's Award for Dignity in Care.

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All nominations should be made by 6 March 2009. The winners from across Kent, Surrey and Sussex will be announced at a prestigious awards ceremony in May 2009.

Last year, two teams from Maidstone were recognised for their patient commitment - The Personality Disorders Team and the Evolve Project Team.

The closing date for nominations is 6 March 2009.

To take part and for more details on how to nominate please contact the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority, York House, 18-20 Massetts Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 7DE or telephone 01293 778 899 or visit the website at: [www.southeastcoast.nhs.uk/bestofhealth](http://www.southeastcoast.nhs.uk/bestofhealth).

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## **Consultations**

### **1. Chemotherapy services in England, ensuring quality and safety; a report from the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group Draft for consultation**

**Summary:** The aim of this report is to bring about a step change in the quality and safety of chemotherapy services for adult patients with either solid cancers or haematological malignancies. The report sets out a framework for planning and monitoring services based on a care pathway model and the actions that need to be taken by commissioners and providers to ensure high quality care.

**Further information contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

**Responses to:** Jane Whittome, National Cancer Action Team, Department of Palliative Medicine, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH or e-mail [jane.whittome@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.whittome@gstt.nhs.uk)

**Closing date:** 4 February 2009

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### **2. The future of the healthcare science workforce. Modernising scientific careers: the next steps**

**Summary:** This consultation document sets out proposals to transform the future training and career pathways of the healthcare science workforce. These proposals have been developed as the result of detailed discussions with nearly 3,000 stakeholders. This UK initiative will be taken forward by the four countries in partnership with all major stakeholders, including patient groups, to ensure that the healthcare science workforce is fit for the future in a rapidly changing and evolving

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healthcare environment.

**Further information contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850.

**Responses to:** Professor Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer, Department of Health, Room 526, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 5779.

**Consultation ends:** 6 March 2009

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### 3. Creating a new professional regulator for pharmacy: health care and associated professions - the draft Pharmacy Order 2009

**Summary:** The draft Pharmacy Order 2009 and consultation document set out proposals to create a new regulator for pharmacy professionals and pharmacy premises in England, Wales and Scotland.

**Further information contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

**Responses to:** Draft Pharmacy Order 2009 Consultation, Pharmacy Professional Regulation Team, Room 453D, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London SE1 6LH or email [pharmprofreg-response@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pharmprofreg-response@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

**Consultation ends:** 9 March 2009

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### 4. General Dental Council (Constitution) Order 2009

**Summary:** This paper sets out a proposed constitution for the GDC. It provides details of the composition of the council, the terms of office of council members, and criteria for the disqualification, suspension or removal of members from office.

**Further information contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850.

**Responses to:** Questionnaire available from the Department of Health (as above)

**Consultation ends:** 27 March 2009

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### 5. Manual for Cancer Services: draft complementary therapy measures

**Summary:** The purpose of this consultation exercise is to ensure that the published Complementary Therapy Cancer Measures are both comprehensive and clear.

**Further information contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

**Responses to:** National Cancer Peer Review, National Cancer Action Team, Department of Palliative Medicine, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH or email [Andrianna.davis@ncpr.org.uk](mailto:Andrianna.davis@ncpr.org.uk)

**Consultation ends:** 27 March 2009

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## **6. Consultation on regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008**

**Summary:** This consultation contains four sets of regulations required to implement the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008.

**Further information contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

**Responses to:** HFE Act Implementation team, Department of Health, Room 609, Wellington House, 133–155 Waterloo Road, SE1 8UG, email [hferegulations@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hferegulations@dh.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone 020 797 24659.

**Consultation ends:** 30 March 2009

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## **7. Common Assessment Framework for Adults**

**Summary:** This is a consultation on proposals to improve information sharing around multi-disciplinary assessment and care planning.

**Further information Contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

**Responses to:** CAF Policy Team, Department of Health, Room 123, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, email [caf@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:caf@dh.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone 020 7972 4130.

**Consultation ends:** 17 April 2009

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## **8. The Health Professions Council (Constitution) Order 2009 - a paper for consultation**

**Summary:** This draft order sets out a proposed constitution for the HPC. It provides details of the composition of the council, the terms of office of council members, and criteria for the disqualification, suspension or removal of members from office.

**Further information Contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850.

**Responses to:** HPC Constitution Order consultation team, Department of Health, Room 2N10, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE or email [HRDListening@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:HRDListening@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

**Consultation ends:** 17 April 2009

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## **9. DH Consultation on the Fairer Charging Guidance in relation to personal budgets**

**Summary:** Councils looking to revise their charging regimes may want to await the outcome of a Department of Health (DH) review of Fairer Charging guidance before implementing changes. DH is undertaking the review in relation to personal budgets as part of the work to help local authorities transform their social care systems. A national

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consultation on a proposed way of calculating a person's contribution to their personal budget began on 26 January 2009 and ends on 19 April.

**Further information Contact:** Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS or telephone 020 7210 4850

**Responses to:** FCC team, Department of Health, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG, email FCC@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 020 7972 4280.

**Consultation ends:** 19 April 2009

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## 10. Young People and Alcohol Guidance

**Summary:** The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has launched a consultation on alcohol guidance, advice and information for parents, children, young people and would welcome the views of children, young people, parents, carers and those organisations and professionals working with young people in health, children's services and education settings.

**Further information Contact:** Department for Children, Schools and Families, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT, email info@dcf.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0870 001 2345.

**Responses to:** An online response form is available at:  
<http://www.dcf.gsi.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=Respond&consultationId=1579&menu=1>

**Consultation ends:** 23 April 2009

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## Events

### 1. Kent LINK Governors Group meeting 19 February 2009

The Kent LINK Governors Group meeting is to be held on Thursday, 19 February 2009 from 4.00pm to 6.00pm at the Salvation Army Centre, 74 – 80 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1ED.

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### 2. Kent Public Opinion Group – Ambulance Services

The role of this group is to ensure patients, carers and the public are actively and appropriately involved in all aspects of the Ambulance Trust's business. The next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday, 11 February 2009 at the Salvation Army Hall, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1ED.

For further information contact Louise Hutchinson at South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 40-42 Friars Walk, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2XW, email Louise.Hutchinson@secamb.nhs.uk or telephone 01273 897805.

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[www.thekentlink.co.uk](http://www.thekentlink.co.uk)

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## **3. Positive Living**

The support group for those affected by HIV have meetings in Dartford on the third Wednesday of every month and Maidstone on the first Wednesday of the month. For further information on these events contact: Jude Black at Voluntary Action West Kent, 19 Monson Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1LS, email [jude.black@vawk.org.uk](mailto:jude.black@vawk.org.uk): or telephone 01892 530 330.

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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, Kent, CT19 4RH

Tel: 01303 297050

E-mail: [info@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:info@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm (Answerphone available out of office hours)