



News

1. What's going on within the LINK?

i) LINK submits evidence on hospital hygiene and cleanliness

Attached is a submission which has been made to the Kent County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). Representatives of the LINK will appear before the Committee at their meeting to be held at 10.00am on Friday, 20 March in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone.

ii) Swale GP invites LINK to scrutinise actions following patient survey

LINK participants in the Swale area are being invited by Dr C Ramu of The Milton Surgery, Milton Regis, to look at the views expressed by patients, which have been collected as part of an annual survey and to review the practice's action plan to address issues raised by patients.

iii) Access to patients' records: LINK participants' views to be investigated

In the last Bulletin the LINK carried a story of a new scheme in Medway to allow a patient's summary records to be shared between various NHS Departments. A participant raised concerns that according to the NHS website Medway had not been listed as an "early adopter" site for such a scheme and that the proposed new Parliamentary Bill has not yet been agreed on this type of access. The concern was that a patient's health record will end up in the wrong hands and compromise privacy. We will publish Medway's response in the Bulletin.

If you have a comment that you wish to make on this, contact the LINK at:
<http://www.themedwaylink.org.uk/index.php?q=17> or telephone 01634 821135

iv) Training of LINK participants

The first training event for LINK participants was held last week in Canterbury. Others in the series will be held as follows

- Friday, 20 March, Maidstone
- Wednesday, 25 March, Swanley

Further training opportunities for LINK participants will occur throughout the year.

v) Selection of LINK visitors and members of the LINK's Priorities Panel

Over 40 LINK participants have expressed an interest in getting more involved in the LINK as either:

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- LINK "authorised representatives" when visiting health or social care premises may be required as part of a LINK project;
- Members of the panel that will assist the LINK by advising on actions to be taken on issues raised with the LINK between its quarterly meetings;
- Representatives of the LINK on outside organisations.

The closing date for applications has been set for the 30 March, with a selection event taking place mid April.

vi) Health Check: reaching out

Progress is being made in collecting evidence from LINK participants (individuals and organisations) as part of this year's Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check of standards in Kent's NHS. Part of the role of the LINK is to involve previously hard to reach groups in such exercises to get their voices heard. As part of this the LINK has commissioned a local voluntary group, working with people with learning disabilities, to produce an "easy to read" questionnaire and to assist individuals to complete them.

vii) Finally, a date for your diaries

The LINK's first Quarterly Event will be held on Monday, 6 April 2009 from 10.00am to 3.30pm, at the Riverside Community Resource Centre, Dickens Road, Gravesend. Invitations will shortly be sent to all LINK participants, although all are welcome to attend. This will be an opportunity for the Governors of the LINK to report on their work and to answer questions. There will also be items for discussion around some of the main topics of the day in health and social care.

If you have any comments to make on the above you can make them via our website at: <http://www.thekentlink.co.uk/index.php?q=17> or by email at info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01303 297050.

2. Keeping up to date with changes in social care

Progress on the changes that have been made in the provision of social care due to the advent of self-directed support can be found at:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/SocialCare/about-social-care/jobs-in-social-care/>

For further information contact John Barnes, Partnership Manager, East Kent Adult Social Services, Brook House, Reeves Way, John Wilson Business Park, Whitstable, CT5 3SS, email John.Barnes@kent.gov.uk or telephone Tel:01227 598854



3. Wanted Patients' Experience Representatives

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services are looking to recruit two patient representatives, either individually or via LINKs, to be part of their Patient Experience Group. The Group's remit is to take an overview of all patient experience surveys and to ensure that they are complying with their duties around involving patients and the public. The Group will initially meet on the last Thursday of the month at Trinity House, Eureka Park, Kennington, Ashford. The building has disabled access and disabled parking bays. An induction loop can be arranged. Travel and other out-of-pocket expenses can be paid. For further information, or to register your interest, please contact Karen Edmunds, Communication and Engagement Manager, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services, Trinity House, Eureka Park, 110/120 Upper Pemberton, Ashford, TN25 4AZ, email Karen.Edmunds@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or telephone 01233 667815

4. Lottery Success

A local partnership has successfully secured funding from the Big Lottery Fund. North Kent Training Service at the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Medway in partnership with North West Kent CVS and Swale CVS have received a grant of £461,100 to deliver a three year training project to volunteers and staff in the voluntary and community sector of North Kent. The aim is to build capacity within the organisations of this sector strengthening the infrastructure and supporting improvements in the provision of services to the local community.

A minimum of 160 training events and self-teach toolkits will be devised to cover all aspects of running a community organisation. This may include subjects such as fundraising, roles of a trustee, employment law / HR good practice, negotiation skills, quality systems, Charity Commission requirements, first aid, basic sign language, equality and diversity and disability awareness / DDA.

The programme of training is due to start in September 2009 and further details of this can be obtained by contacting:

North Kent Training Service at CVS Medway:

Email: trainingdept@cvsmedway.org.uk or telephone 01634 818036

North West Kent CVS

Email: main@nwkcvs.org or telephone 01474 354479

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Swale CVS

Email: office@swalecvs.co.uk or telephone 01795 473828

For further information contact Alison Dyke, Manager of North Kent Training Service by telephone 01634 818036 or visit the web site: www.NKTS.co.uk

Events

1. Sure Sight Exhibition 2009

An exhibition of ideas and equipment to help people with sight impairment: magnifiers, computer software, CCTVs etc will be held on Friday, 17 April 2009 from 10.00am to 3.00pm at Meopham Secondary School, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend, DA13 0AH. Admission is free and refreshments available. Wheelchair access and parking is available.

Advice and information is available from the Gravesend Rehabilitation Team. Contact the Duty Officer, Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) by telephone 01474 544440, email rehab.gravesend@kab.org.uk or visit the web site: www.kab.org.uk

2. Celebrating Cultural Diversity at Peppercorns

A day of arts, crafts and presentations to be held at Peppercorns, 3 Orchard Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 2DF on Friday, 20 March 2009 from 10.30am to 3.30pm featuring: personal account on diversity; Bollywood Dance Display; African Dance Display Gravesham; Young Girls Group; Indian Head Massage; Hand Massage; Henna painting; Accessing the internet and displays from local BME organisations. Lunch £2 per person and sample world foods.

For further information contact Sandeep Saib, DGS Mencap by email Sandeep.Saib@dgsmentcap.org.uk or telephone 01322 425990.



March is Prostate Cancer Month

The first of this year's series of evenings is on Wednesday, 25 March at 7.00pm at the Staplehurst Health Centre. The speaker will be John Bennett of the Tunbridge Wells Branch of Prostate Cancer Support Association. His talk will highlight the signs and indicators of possible prostate cancer, types of treatment and ongoing effects for patients and their wives and partners. All men and their wives or partners, particularly those middle aged and elderly, are invited and encouraged to attend.

For further information contact Robin Oakley, Staplehurst Medical Centre, Offens Drive, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 0LB or telephone 01580 891516.

Funding for the voluntary sector

CASE Kent is hosting a key event for the voluntary and community sector on Tuesday, 31 March 2009, 9.30am to 2.30pm at Aylesham Community Centre, Ackholt Road, Aylesham, Kent CT3 3AJ. The purpose of this event is to inform voluntary and community groups of the funding available to them in the local area.

For further information contact Liz Shihabi, CASE Kent, Berwick House, 8 Elwick Road Ashford, TN23 1PF, email ashford@casekent.org.uk or telephone 01233 610171.

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership - Ashford & Shepway User Forum

Service users and carers are invited to attend an open meeting to find out more and give their comments on the redesign of mental health services for older people in the area.

The meeting will be from 10.00am to 12.00noon on Wednesday, 25 March at Centrepiece, United Reformed and Methodist Church, 28 Bank Street, Ashford, Kent TN23 1BA.

For further information contact Penny Alabone-Battye, PALS and Volunteer Office, Arundel Unit, William Harvey Hospital, Ashford or telephone 07900 243396.



Consultations

1. Consultation away-day: mental health research and the contribution that service users can make

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Service User Involvement and Empowerment Project (Older People) will be holding a consultation event to highlight mental health research and the contributions that service users can make.

The event will be held on Monday, 23 March at the Post Graduate Study Centre, St Martins Hospital, Canterbury, CT1 1TD from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

For further information contact Nick Dent, PALS Manager (East), Kent & Medway Partnership Trust, PPCI Department, St Martins Hospital, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, CT1 1TD, email Nicholas.Dent@kmpt.nhs.uk or telephone 01227 812020.

2. Young people and governance

The British Youth Council (BYC), on behalf of Participation Works, is carrying out a short survey for organisations about young people and governance. The BYC are keen to see what has or hasn't changed in this area and what the current levels of involvement are. The BYC are also surveying young people for their views on this topic. Please register your views and the survey will only take 5 minutes of your time.

The link to the survey is below:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=pE6JTJLTbi862gP1QmT1Fg_3d_3d

For further information contact David Clark, Programmes and Training Manager, British Youth Council, CAN Mezzanine, 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG, telephone 0845 458 1489 / 020 7785 6461 or mobile: 07809 507 357

3. Consultation on improving access to taxis

This consultation seeks views on how to improve access to taxis by disabled people ensuring that they have greater access and equality of opportunity.

The Department will be holding two workshops to discuss the recently published

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'Improving access to Taxis' consultation document. More information about the event can be found at:
www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/consultations/1136417

For further information contact Paul Lawry by telephone on 020 7944 05876.

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

Email: info@kmn-ltd.co.uk

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