



April 2010

The Kent LINK

Report of the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent (ECK) Board Meeting 17 March 2010

With an agenda of 18 items the meeting was expected to be, and actually was, extremely busy. One item of particular importance was the approval of the Strategic Commissioning Plan for 2010 to 2015. This is the key document, which underpins the priorities that the Primary Care Trust (PCT) have set to address the health needs of the population within Eastern and Coastal Kent, whilst being aware of the resources available.

The following points illustrate some of the items, which may be of particular interest to the LINK:

- **Patient Safety**

Work continues both within the Trust and with its provider organisations to reduce the levels of hospital acquired infections. The goal is 'no avoidable cases of hospital acquired MRSA by the fourth quarter of 2011'. All the Trusts have a lower rate of Clostridium difficile than the South East Coast average and are well below contract requirements.

- **NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Services (ECK - CS)**

It is expected that Trust status will be granted to ECK - CS in the near future. The earliest possible date is 1 July 2010, but realistically it is more likely to be 1 October 2010. This will enable the new Trust to develop its current services to bring much of its work closer to its communities.

- **Patient Representative**

A meeting has been held between members of the Citizen Engagement Team and LINK to develop a strategy to involve LINK participants and Health Reference Group members as representatives on Patient Safety and Care Quality Sub Committees.

- **Connecting to our Communities**

Within the Strategic Commissioning Plan the ECK wish:

- i. To ensure that communications and engagement outcomes influence and shape strategic commissioning plans and the experience of patients and the public
- ii. To develop and embed effective communications and engagement methods and practice
- iii. To develop and implement effective systems and processes, including evidencing the impact of communications and engagement activities
- iv. To establish a strategic approach to equalities and diversity overall.

- **Public Question**

In response to a question, the Director of Communications and Citizen Engagement stressed that it was the intention of the Trust to seek interaction with the widest public sector groups, including Health Matters Reference Group, LINK and other appropriate citizen groups.

Further details of the meeting can be accessed at:

www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/about-us/the-board/board-meetings-and-papers

If you have a query or comment that you wish to bring to the Board's notice please forward it to info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or write to the Kent LINK, Unit 24 Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4RH.

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5 April 2010