



North Somerset LINK
Your partnership for health and social care

LINK NEWS

Issue 6 - Jan 10

Latest News...

Wrington Vale Medical Practice

Consultation on the future delivery of primary care services for the patients of Wrington Vale Medical Practice. Please go to the NHS North Somerset website for the most up to date information or to get involved with the consultation.

www.northsomerset.nhs.uk. See consultations page for further details.



Millcross Selected as Preferred Site for new Clevedon Hospital

NHS North Somerset have confirmed that Millcross is the preferred site of the new Clevedon Community Hospital. The old Kwik Save store is to be regenerated for the new hospital for the population of Woodspring. Those who are interested, can look at and make comments on the planning submission, which is available to see on North Somerset Council's website: www.n-somerset.gov.uk or go to NHS North Somerset's website for more info on the new site.

New Emergency Department for Weston General – go to events page for details of upcoming seminar on the new Emergency Department at Weston General, which is due to open in April.

Dr Foster report – go to page 3 for Weston Area Health Trust response to LINK's questions.

Dignity in Care – go to page 2 to read an article about the dignity in care campaign and becoming a dignity in care champion.

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Representation on Health and Social Care Bodies

The following shows the LINK's new list of representatives on local health and social care bodies, following the recent Committee election:

Nikki Edwards	Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Nick Godfrey	NHS North Somerset
Nick Godfrey	Older Peoples' Strategic Partnership
Tony Hawkings	Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS)
Jane Bollen	Rurals Group
Stephen Buswell	Western Area Health Trust (WHAT)
Maureen Livesey	Transforming Commissioning Board (TCB)
Joe Norman	Health Overview and Scrutiny
Georgie Bigg	Adult Social Care and Housing Scrutiny
To be confirmed	Clevedon Hospital
New rep. needed	Avon and Wiltshire Partnership

Mental Health Representation

We are currently looking for a new representative for Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership to attend area stakeholder meetings and keep up to date with local Mental Health Services work. Quarterly LINK stakeholder meetings are held together with additional events on information circulated between times. If you have an interest in Mental Health Services and would like to find out more about this role, please contact Melanie at the LINK office.

LINK Sub-Committees

The LINK's new Management Sub-Committee and Workplan Implementation Group are now in place. A list of members will be available in the near future on the website or through the office now.

Dignity in Care Campaign

Could you be a Dignity Champion?

The Dignity in Care campaign aims to change the culture of health and social care services to place a greater emphasis on the quality of care. In particular it focuses on the aspects of care which give humanity to a service and ensure that users are treated with dignity and respect. These changes will only take place by the actions of individuals and we are encouraging anyone who cares about these issues to sign up as a Dignity Champion.

Dignity Champions include members of local action groups, voluntary and advocacy organisations, people who use care services, their relatives and carers, other members of the public, MPs and councillors, as well as health and social care managers and frontline staff. They are committed to taking some action, however large or small, in order to promote a care system that emphasizes quality as well as efficiency and shows compassion and respect for those using its services.

Many members of the LINK may already be taking action which supports the aims of Dignity in Care. Becoming a Champion will further strengthen the campaign and give you support by recognising your efforts and giving access to resources and opportunities to share ideas, issues and best practice with others in your geographical area or care sector. For example, there are Dignity Challenge cards (enclosed with paper copies of this newsletter), which list ten aspects of high quality services which could provide a useful checklist when visiting services.

Further information about Dignity in Care and Dignity Champions can be found on the website www.dignityincare.org.uk . The process of signing up as a Dignity Champion is quick and easy and can be done via the website or by calling 020 7972 4007. Remember that the Dignity Champion role is not intended to require lots of time, energy or experience; there are many small things that you can do which can have a big impact on people's lives.

Should you wish to have a speaker to attend a local meeting to talk more about the Dignity in Care campaign, please contact me.

Janet Fullforth
Local Development Worker, Dignity in Care
Age Concern

Getting Involved

Help with Consultations

If you are a Member of the LINK who is interested in consultations, we would be really grateful for your help. If you have the time and the skill to read, digest and analyse information and want to become an actively involved Member, please get in touch with us to discuss our work on reviewing consultations.

NHS North Somerset Questions Raised at LINK Committee Meetings

At the 15th October Committee Meeting, a number of questions were raised with NHS North Somerset by the LINK. This included questions on the provision of Hydrotherapy services which are currently provided at Southmead or University Hospitals Bristol, the need for mental health support for depression following discharge of patients from cancer treatment and the new Woodspring GP referral system which considers patients referred for hospital treatment by the GP. We aren't able to print the full responses here, but if you would like a copy please contact the office.

Development Worker's Corner

Hi, I'm Vicky, the LINK's development worker. Some of you will have met me out and about in North Somerset. As ever, I have been attending a variety of groups, telling them about the LINK and hearing about people's experiences, including Claverham Senior Citizen's lunch group, Wrington Save Our Surgeries Group and VANS Health and Well Being Forum.

I am also busy putting together some ideas of ways we can reach sectors of the community who are currently under represented on our membership and we are also thinking about ways for members and the public to contribute to our work plan topics... watch this space... If you know of anyone interested in health and social care issues, please let them know about us so they can tell us about their experiences.

Hope you are all keeping warm and safe during this cold spell,

Vicky

Please contact Kelley, Mel or Vicky at the LINK office for more information about these opportunities

LINK Feedback on Your Views

Weston Hospital Patient Safety Report

Dr Foster Intelligence is a public-private partnership launched in February 2006 that aims to improve the quality and efficiency of health and social care through better use of information. They have developed their own quality account for every English NHS Trust to help the public understand how local hospitals perform across measures of patient safety, clinical effectiveness and patient experience. The recent Hospital Guide from Dr Foster was published in December 2009, highlighted a low score on Patient Safety for Weston Hospital.

Following this report's coverage in the media, North Somerset LINK wrote to the Chief Executive of Weston Area Health Trust with a number of questions about the Hospital Trust's score in this report including; 'How appropriate/accurate are the allegations of life-threatening errors occurring at Weston Area Health Trust?' and 'Are matters affecting patient safety systematically monitored at the Trust?'

In addition to providing the LINK with the general statement released by the Trust to the media, which outlined its reaction to the report's outcomes, the LINK has received a direct response to its letter. In light of this, we are now requesting further clarification on some of the issues raised.

A copy of the correspondence is available under the 20th January Committee meeting papers on our website or through our office.

Breast Cancer Services Review

Our involvement with the Breast Cancer Services review is coming to an end now as the process reaches its final stages. We are grateful to LINK Committee Member, Maureen Livesey who gave her time as a representative of North Somerset LINK. For more information on the outcome of this review and on the plans for the 'Hub and Spokes' model and locations of Breast Cancer Services for North Somerset, please go to the Bristol Health Services Plan website by following this link:

http://www.avon.nhs.uk/bhsp/Services/breast_review/default.asp

Consultations – Have your say

Current Local Consultation Information:

Wrington Vale Medical Practice

Consultation period: 11th November '09 - 13th March '10. Go to the NHS North Somerset website for more information or to get involved:

www.northsomerset.nhs.uk

National consultation information:

NHS Consultation - consultation on new patient's rights

This consultation proposes new patient rights to:

Treatment within a maximum of 18 weeks from a GP referral and to be seen by a cancer specialist within 2 weeks from a GP referral, or where this is not possible, for the NHS to take reasonable steps to offer a range of alternative providers; and NHS Health Checks for those aged 40 to 74 to assess their risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

Launched: 10th Nov '09 End date: 5th Feb '10

North Somerset NHS website or the Department of Health website for more information: www.northsomerset.nhs.uk or

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_108012

Personal Care at Home

A consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance. Launched 25th November 2009, end date: 23rd February 2010. for more information go to: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_109139

NHS Car Parking

A national consultation was launched on 29th December 2009 on improving access for patients. Get in touch to give your views on free NHS hospital car parking for inpatients by the closing date of 23rd Feb 2010 via the 'live consultations' link of the DoH website: www.dh.gov.uk follow this link for more info:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_110557

Pharmacy - Proposals to implement 'generic substitution' in primary care.

Further to engagement with national stakeholders during 2009, the Department of Health (DoH) is consulting on three options for the implementation of generic substitution in England. Generic substitution means that pharmacies have greater power to substitute medicines where the GP requested brand is not available, with an alternative brand. The department's preferred option is to introduce dispensing flexibility, but limiting the scheme in such a way that the arrangements only apply to a selected group of products on a select list. To download the consultation document, go to:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_110511.pdf

Launched on 5th Jan 2010, the end date of the consultation period is 30th March '10. For more info go to:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_110517

Age Equality in Health & Social Care

A consultation on preparing the NHS and Social Care in England for the age requirements in the Equality Bill that affect the provision of services and exercise of public functions. Launched: 23rd November '09, Closure: 15th February 2010. For more info:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_108887

For further information on the following headings please follow the links:

Delivering same-sex accommodation progress report

Date of publication: 15th Dec '09

www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/1413197

related link: NHS tackles mixed-sex accommodation

www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=1413313

Code of Practice publication: 16th Dec '09

The Health & Social Care Act 2008: Code of practice for health and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance, comes into force for NHS in April 2010.

www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/1416297

Forthcoming Events

To Celebrate Diversity North Somerset Council is hosting:

Your North Somerset

Sunday 24th January 2010
Noon to 4pm at the Winter Gardens
Weston Super Mare

This year there will be:

Entertainment provided by members of North Somerset's diverse community

Staff from the council, health, housing, police, voluntary groups and other agencies

Family entertainment and childrens' activities

Advice on a range of issues including community safety, employment and benefits

Food tasting from around the world

NS LINK will have a stand at this event so please introduce yourselves and meet members of the LINK's host team.

Dates for your diaries:

SEMINAR

New Emergency Department
Weston General

The LINK will be hosting a Seminar on 16th February from 2-4pm at the Church Hall in the Healthy Living Centre, 68 Lonsdale Avenue, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3SJ.

This will be a chance for members of the LINK to see plans and pictures of the proposed new emergency department for Weston General Hospital, which is due to open in April 2010 and to address questions to senior professionals.

Enter & View Training

There has been recent training held for Members who expressed an interest in becoming an 'authorised representative' for the LINK.

We will be running further training in the future, so if you are interested in becoming more actively involved as a LINK member or would like more information on becoming an 'authorised representative' to carry out 'Enter & View' visits, please get in touch with us.

LINK Meetings

LINK Committee Meetings in public (quarterly)

Our Committee meets quarterly at different times and venues in North Somerset. The next meetings are:

Weds 20th January (NB. previously advertised as 21st)

10-12 noon at The Folk Hall
95 High Street
Portishead BS20 6PR

Weds 17th March

10.30 – 12.30

Nailsea Town Council Hall
79 Silver Street, BS48 2DS

Dates for the remainder of the year will be in the next member's bulletin.

Workplan Implementation Group

Friday 29th January

10-12 noon

Yatton Methodist Hall

New Transport Group

We have received many comments from the public about transportation issues and in response to this we are setting up a new working group.

We will shortly be writing to Members of the LINK who have already expressed an interest in becoming actively involved on this issue, to arrange the first meeting of the new transport group. If you wish to express a view or to get involved, please get in touch.

What is North Somerset LINK?

The North Somerset LINK is a Local Involvement Network. LINKs will make it easier for citizens to say what they want from health and social care services, to talk with the people who run them and to hold them to account. There is a LINK for the area of every English local authority with social services responsibilities. Sometimes the people who use services don't feel they have a strong enough voice to change aspects of their health or social care. The North Somerset LINK is a part of a wider process to help the community have a stronger local voice.

North Somerset LINK

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