

# Bedfordshire LINK Bulletin

Issue 1 Sept 2008



## Update

We are delighted to announce that Bedfordshire County Council has now received consent from the two new unitary authorities (Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough) to finalise contractual arrangements with Voluntary Action Luton as Host (Support Organisation) for the Bedfordshire LINK.

There are indications that there will be two LINKs in Bedfordshire, which will no doubt bring new challenges for the Host organisation. It is very clear that the Bedfordshire LINK(s) needs to be working very closely with all neighbouring LINKs, particularly Luton, otherwise we may well end up duplicating visits and work items unnecessarily.

VAL will soon be appointing two new members of staff to support the Bedfordshire LINK, so in addition to Charlotte Bonser as the Support Team Lead, we will be appointing a full-time LINKs Officer and a 0.5 Marketing and Membership Administrator. Our aim is to have staff in place towards the end of November/beginning of December.

## Membership Leaflets/Promotional Items

- The final z-fold leaflet will be printed and ready for issue on the 18 September
- Pens and A5 pads with the Bedfordshire LINK logo and host organisation details are on order for delivery on 25 September – just before our launch events.

Please let Charlotte know if you require any of these items for events that you are attending, where you may be able to promote the Bedfordshire LINK.

**Please note** that if you wish to join the Bedfordshire LINK, then it will be necessary for you to complete one of these membership forms and return it to Charlotte. Some members have completed and returned the application forms attached to the draft leaflet. To avoid any confusion we are accepting these as your official application.

Joining the Bedfordshire LINK does not prevent you from also joining another LINK if you so wish.

## BEDFORDSHIRE LINK LAUNCH EVENT – Friday, 26 September 2008

Invitations went out a couple of weeks ago, and to date we have :

24 acceptances for the Shortstown event and  
15 acceptances for the Rufus Centre event.

All the speakers have now been confirmed.

**LINKs Speaker** – Debbie Roberts, Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP)

**Healthcare Speaker** – Sarah Boulton, Chair of Bedfordshire NHS (PCT)

**Social Care Speakers (Beds County Council)** – Simon White, Assistant Director, Transforming Social Care and Vivienne Payne and James Robinson-Morley

If you have not confirmed your attendance, please let Charlotte know as soon as possible.

**Voluntary Action Luton 15 New Bedford Road Luton LU1 1SA**

Tel: 01582 733418 Fax: 01582 733013

Email: [info@valuton.org.uk](mailto:info@valuton.org.uk)

Website: [www.valuton.org.uk](http://www.valuton.org.uk)

Reg. Co: 3275961  
Reg. Charity: 1059287



Member of:  
NACVA & NCVO

# Information Items:

## MEETING NOTES

Members have produced the following notes of meetings they have attended.  
If you would like a copy of any of these notes, by e-mail or post, please let Charlotte know.

- Beds & Luton "1 Call" (formerly SPOC) Steering Group – 30.7.08, Author: Ray Gunning
- Minutes of the All Practice Meeting – Horizon Health Practice Based Commissioning – 19.8.08, Author: Janet Dennis
- Beds and Luton Oral Health Strategy & Commissioning Group – 2.9.08, Author: Ray Gunning
- Luton & Dunstable Patient Representative Group – 9.9.08, Author: Ray Gunning
- Luton & Dunstable Hospital Clinical Ethics – 10.9.08, Author: Ray Gunning
- Beds & Luton Urgent Care Strategic Network – 10.9.08, Author: Ray Gunning

**Please note that once the LINK's Board is established, all attendances at meetings must be agreed by the Board. However, until we reach this stage expenses will continue to be paid as agreed by the HAF and the Support Organisation; as before these will only cover expenses not being reimbursed by the Trust/statutory organisation concerned.**

## FREE Courses in South Bedfordshire

We have been notified of the opportunity to attend the following free workshops/seminars being run by the Human Givens Seminars/Workshops in 2009:

- Addiction: understanding and stopping addictive behaviour Seminar – Thursday, 15th January 2009
- Brief therapy skills for stopping addictions Workshop – Friday, 13th February 2009
- From stress to psychosis Seminar – Tuesday 19th May 2009
- How to lift depression Workshop – Friday, 12th June 2009
- Guided imagery and visualisation Workshop – Friday, 26th June 2009
- The fast phobia and trauma cure Workshop – Friday, 30th October 2009.

As previously, these days will be free of charge and will take place at **Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Wingfield.**

*Registration is from 8.45 – 9.30am. Seminars run from 9.30am – 4.30pm*

*Workshops run from 9.30 am – 4.30/4.45 pm*

Please e-mail Kate Smith directly on [kate.smith9@nhs.net](mailto:kate.smith9@nhs.net) or let Charlotte know and she will e-mail her for you.

## Consultations/Questionnaires

### Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Services Development Plan

A discussion paper and briefing document is available if you have an interest in commenting on this issue.

### Questionnaire on Donor Participation and Surgery for Obese patients

Ray Gunning, who has been attending the Luton & Dunstable Hospital Clinical Ethics Group, would like your opinions/comments on the following two issues :

1. Donor Participation – Should there be a positive opt-in or opt-out process?
2. Surgery for Obese patients – Should obese patients be accepted for bariatric surgery?

Please respond to Ray by e-mail: [rgunning@btinternet.com](mailto:rgunning@btinternet.com) or pass comments to Charlotte who will forward them onto Ray.

For more information about any of the items in this Bulletin, please contact:  
Charlotte Bonser, Bedfordshire LINK Support Team Lead at Voluntary Action Luton.  
Tel: 01582 733418 Email: [charlotte.bonser@valuton.org.uk](mailto:charlotte.bonser@valuton.org.uk)