

# Bedfordshire LINK Bulletin

Issue 3

Nov 2008



There has been a steady interest from individuals and groups in joining the Bedfordshire LINK since the Launch events held at the end of September, but it is important that everyone completes the membership form so we know how you wish to be involved.

So far, the situation with membership is as follows:

- 23 people/groups have expressed an interest in being on the Board
- 30 have completed an application to participate in other ways

The Beds & Herts Heart and Stroke Network is becoming a general member of the Beds LINK. If you would like to find out more about this network please look at [www.bhhsnetwork.nhs.uk](http://www.bhhsnetwork.nhs.uk) or contact Sue Tunnick on 01582 708358

## RAISING AWARENESS OF THE LINK

The Host organisation and the interim LINK members are continuing to raise awareness of the LINK through a series of meetings and presentations across Bedfordshire.

### Leaflet/information brochure circulation:

- GP Surgeries in Bedfordshire – Sept 08
- Copies taken to the Luton & Dunstable Hospital Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 24 Sept
- Voluntary Action Luton AGM – 27.10.08 at which Charlotte gave a presentation.

### Attendance at Events/Meetings:

- Presence at Well-Being Festival at the Bedford Corn Exchange on 5 November, 10 – 4pm.
- Discussion with the Beds & Luton Partnership Trust to encourage younger people to be involved with the LINK.
- Presentation to L&D Hospital Council of Governors meeting 12 November
- Representation at the County-wide Assembly on 19 November at Cranfield University - to review the progress of implementation of Local Area Agreement.

[www.bedfordshirecountywidepartnership.org.uk](http://www.bedfordshirecountywidepartnership.org.uk)

Please let us know if you are organising an event in relation to health or social care where we could promote the LINK, by staffing a stall or where we can display the Beds LINK leaflet.

### NHS Bedfordshire Consultation – New Health Centre for Shefford

A public consultation on GP led proposals to build a new health centre in Shefford.

For further information on the consultation and how to be involved, please go to [www.bedfordshire.nhs.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.nhs.uk). Responses will need to be received by 25 January 2009.

An information booklet providing details of the consultation can be posted on receipt of an address. This can be done by telephoning the Public Engagement and Communications Team on 01234 795714 (ext 3789) or writing to Public Engagement and Communications Team, NHS Bedfordshire, 21 Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2AW. **Two public meetings are planned for 25 November and 8 January 7.30pm – 9pm at Samuel Whitbread School, Shefford Road, Clifton SG17 5QS.**

## PROCESS FOR ELECTION TO LINK BOARD

The Election process for representation on the LINK Board will begin in November.

All those people and groups who have expressed an interest in being on the Board will be asked to complete an application form and provide a profile and photograph of themselves; a ballot voting system will then be initiated.

The aim is to have the LINK Board confirmed in the New Year.



Member of the Board

## MEETING NOTES

The following notes are available on request from the Host organisation:

Sept 08: Adult Health & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Arthur Hoggard

3.10.08: Beds Primary Care Commissioning Group meeting – Bob Smith

13.10.08: Luton & Dunstable Hospital Risk Management Committee – Ray Gunning

14.10.08: NHS Continence Strategy Meeting – Norma Bartlett

## Extract from Statement issued by L&D Hospital 29 October 08 – regarding E.coli in the Neonatal Unit

The situation is under control and the infection outbreak is subsiding. Although we remain cautious, we anticipate that the L&D's neonatal unit will return to normal during next week. Four babies were originally infected with E.coli. Two of them subsequently died from extreme prematurity rather than from the E.coli infection which may have been a contributory factor. The two surviving babies, who previously had an infection, are both clinically well and neither of them now has the E.coli infection.

The L&D is working in close collaboration with the **Health Protection Agency (HPA)**, Primary Care Trusts and clinical experts to gain an understanding of how the outbreak happened. Dr Peter Sheridan, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control at the Health Protection Unit for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire said: "Luton & Dunstable Hospital have all the right control measures in place and we are working with them to bring this outbreak to an end and understand how we can guard against any further infection risk in the future." The HPA have not identified the source of the infection and they suggest that we are unlikely to discover the cause.

Meantime, as a precaution, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is operating with enhanced infection control measures including barrier and cohort nursing, cleaning with hypochlorite and restricting visiting to parents only.

## WHAT ARE THE LOCAL PRIORITY ISSUES IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Host Organisation, Voluntary Action Luton is keeping a priority issue log. What do you feel are the priority issues in health and social care that need tackling once the LINK BOARD is elected ?

Please let us know.