

Bedfordshire LINK

Bulletin Issue 5 Dec 2008



Election papers will soon be with you to vote for your new LINK Board, but in the meantime members have been attending various meetings to keep up-to-date with health and social care issues for the Bedfordshire LINK. Here is some of their feedback.



East of England – Long Term Conditions Consultation “Delivering Pledge 7”, Cambridge Ernie and Doreen Davis, 23 October 08

This was a consultation event run by the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and patients with long-term conditions to formalise a policy.

There was an appeal on behalf of patients suffering from ME and their carers. This is a huge public health issue as ME is a serious multi-symptom disorder; 80% of sufferers don't get significantly better or return to their former health.

David Tregunno from Grayes SW Essex PCT spoke about Diabetes. He said that most type 2 diabetes is due to obesity. Retinal screening has improved (in his area). Improved monitoring is needed. The priorities were identified as commissioning of all services and improved patient involvement.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Linda Caine from Great Yarmouth & Waveney PCT gave an interesting talk on this and showed a short DVD on

some of the itinerary for rehab. This includes a respiratory nurse and an instructor giving advice and teaching exercises to help with coping with lung conditions. In the Great Yarmouth and Waveney areas the course runs for about 8 – 12 weeks at a cost of £300 per patient. Also, there is a new website for Long-Term Conditions in the Yarmouth area, which includes patient information and self management programmes.

Personal Health Plans – there was an opportunity for people to review the document being proposed by the SHA; it is a thick document (eight sheets printed both sides of A5 paper). The positive points of this plan is that it will allow the patient to go directly to the pharmacy and order repeat prescriptions, bypassing the GP. Although GP's will set review dates where a visit to the surgery will be required. In addition those patients that need frequent blood tests will be able to go directly to have a test without the need to get documentation from their doctor.

Personal Health budgets are still in the early stages and until more detail is available it is difficult to comment at this stage. However, the SHA is pressing ahead with the plans and details.

Local Enhanced Services to address prevention and inequalities in Chronic Heart Disease. Horizon Health (Practice Based Commissioning) Bedford, is about to trial a scheme whereby a small team of nurses and a doctor will visit the homeless in hostels in Bedford. Here they will take blood pressures, order blood tests, if appropriate, and discuss health issues and offer prescriptions and inhalers, and so on.

¹ For more information about this bulletin or to include an item in the Bulletin, please contact Charlotte Bonser, Bedfordshire LINK Support Team Lead at Voluntary Action Luton.

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County-Wide Assembly – Cranfield 19 November - Bob Smith

Summary :

- This was the last of the Countywide Assembly sessions before the new unitary authorities are established.
- Expected that progress with the new organisations will be slow and take about four years to become effective.
- The emphasis is on relationships and partnerships.

NHS Bedfordshire “1 Call”(formerly Single Point of Contact SPOC) Steering Group - 26 November Ray Gunning

The group includes PCT staff, Commissioners and Providers, East of England Ambulance staff and lay membership.

A general discussion took place over the need to consider planning for the Winter period and possible emergency periods. It appears the provider arm has no staff to cover community beds. Bedford Hospital recently had to close wards due to the inevitable Winter Virus outbreak. However, the 1Call system appears to be working well throughout the county.

Public Meeting – Consultation on New Shefford Health Centre 25 November 2008 Bob Smith

Summary: Poor public turnout – less than 50 members of the public attended - the session lasted less than an hour. However, it was stated that NHS Bedfordshire had already received 125 written comments.

There was strong representation from NHS Bedfordshire and local Practice

Based Consortia (PBC), including the Practice Manager from the Shefford Practice.

There was an introduction as to why the surgery is to move. Questions raised were to do with dispensing/pharmacy provision, transport, effects of the recession on the business plan and if they will create a Patients’ Group.

LINK Representation on KEY groups:

Beds Adult Health & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Arthur Hoggard/ Bob Smith

NHS Bedfordshire Board meetings –
Franca Garrick/Arthur Dennis

Bedford Hospital Trust Board meetings –
Arthur Dennis

Bedford Hospital Infection Control meeting
Josie McLean/Max Coleman

Beds & Luton Partnership Trust Board Meetings (Mental Health Trust)
Carl Bernard/Charles Robbins

Long-term Conditions Steering Group
Ernie Davis/Doreen Davis

L&D Hospital Directors meeting
Ray Gunning/Trevor Gash

Practice Based Commissioning representation
Horizon Health PBC – **Janet Dennis**
Chiltern Vale PBC – **Ray Gunning**
West Mid Beds PBC – **Glen Pullen**



**“BEST WISHES
FOR THE
FESTIVE SEASON
FROM THE LINK
SUPPORT TEAM
& ALL AT
VOLUNTARY
ACTION LUTON”**

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