

LINK

Bedfordshire Local
Involvement Network

January 2009



ISSUE

6

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**Special
points of in-
terest:**

- ◆ *Election results*
- ◆ *New team for LINKs*
- ◆ *FREE training*
- ◆ *OBE for Beds consultant*

GOVERNOR ELECTION RESULTS 2009

Following the recent elections, the LINK Board is now in place and the successful candidates are listed below.

We wish them all a successful time in office

BEDFORDSHIRE BOROUGH	Special Experience
Arthur Hoggard	Finance, personnel & Governance
Karen Perry	Finance, marketing, PR & Governance
Carl Bernard	Voluntary work, African & Caribbean Forum
Felicity Heseltine	Working with people with learning disabilities
Arthur Dennis	Finance, personnel, marketing, Governance
Ronald Franklin	Personnel, Advocacy Alliance

BEDFORDSHIRE CENTRAL	Special Experience
Bob Smith	Finance, accounts, budget, Governance
Ann Brown	Lecturer in health/social policy, Governance
Ray Gunning	Personnel and Governance
Norma Bartlett	Personnel, training, voluntary work
Monika Elliott	Social work, Local Councillor
Charles Robbins	Central Beds Representative for PHAB (Physically Disabled, Able Bodies)

It is proposed that the first Board meeting will be held in public on Thursday 22nd January from 1030 until 1.00 pm in VAL 's offices at 15 New Bedford Road, Luton LU1 1SA. Tel: 01582 733418

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Complimentary Workshop February 2009



On 9th February 2009, Bedfordshire LINK and The Centre for Public Scrutiny will be offering a complimentary workshop to The Board and Membership of LINKs.

Starting at 1000 a.m. at the Rufus Centre in Steppingley Road, Flitwick, the workshop will be lead by expert adviser, Andrew Lawrence. The subjects covered will be :

- Helping the Link work within a restricted budget
- Strategies for exploring social care issues.

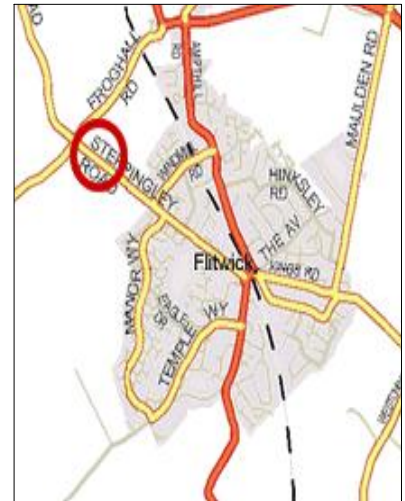
This will be a very popular workshop

with limited places so please apply as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Either return the reply slip attached to our flyer or find it on line at www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/valuton/intheNewsAndEventssection.

The Rufus Centre is situated in the rural area of Flitwick and easily accessed.

For more details, please contact Marian Courtney, Beds LINK Support Officer at Valuton on 01582 733418 or em.marian.courtney@valuton.org.uk



The Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick | Tel. 01525 631900 | Fax. 01525 631903

New Support Team for LINK

The new LINK support team is in place at VAL 's head offices in Luton.



Comprising of three members of staff from various disciplines, they are committed to raising the LINK profile and increasing

" How you can make a difference in shaping health and social care services in Bedfordshire "

membership over the coming years in order to tackle issues of concern in health and social care provision. Team Lead is Charlotte Bonser and her support team members are Marian Courtney, Beds LINK Officer and Nikki Dalrymple, Marketing and Membership Administrator. If you have any queries, please call the team on: **Tel: 01582 733418**

ISSUES

The following issues have been flagged up to the team and will be put before the board.

ISSUES

Mount Vernon Cancer Network
Community Nursing
Autism in young adults
Carers of young adults
Infection control — Bedford Hospital

DETAILS

Facilities not appropriate for area
Shortage of staff ST, need to monitor
Lack of support/counselling
Lack of support during transition
Elizabeth Ward

Falls by the elderly resulting in a fracture of the femur

General, Primary care and Secondary care situations, January 2009

Incidence: approximately 1 in every 800 individuals each year.

About 76% of all hip fractures occur in women.

Osteoporosis increases a person's likelihood of sustaining a hip fracture.

Over 90% of hip fractures are caused by falling, most often by falling sideways onto the hip.

About one in five hip fracture patients dies within a year of their injury.

Of those aged 90: 60% fell within a year; 80% were unable to get up after a fall; 80% did not activate their alarms.

Up to 50% of patients go on to have another fracture.

Many older people at risk of falling do not think prevention programmes are relevant to them.

The most effective way to prevent fall-related injuries, including hip fractures, is to combine exercise with other fall prevention strategies.

PRIMARY CARE

Aim: to prevent future falls and fragility fractures.

- Commission a patient care pathway for the secondary prevention of falls.

- Commission community or hospital based clinics to perform a range of risk factor assessments and offer individual targeted treatment plans: most patients returning home from A&E after a fragility fracture were not offered a falls risk assessment: only 22% were referred for exercise training to reduce future falls; after 3 months, only 25% of these patients were on appropriate treatment for osteoporosis.

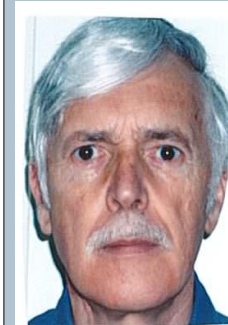
- Review the range of therapeutic exercise options available locally in combination with local authorities.

- Review their information sharing agreements and practice.

SECONDARY CARE

- Reduce death and disability resulting from hip fractures.

- Ensure prompt surgery can be offered to patients - 31% of operations for hip fractures are delayed beyond the 48hours target, and it is known that delay is associated with increased mortality.



With thanks to LINK member, Bob Smith, for submitting this article

- Review their information sharing agreements and practice.

LINKS exchange

There are now new tools on the NHS website to enable patients to rate the service they receive in hospitals.

Log onto

<http://www.lx.nhs.uk/news>

NEW SURVEY - your GP

Department of Health National (DH).

"Patients to have a say in improving GP services." More than five million patients in England are being asked for their views on how to improve family doctor services in a new survey launched by the Government today. For more information, Log onto <http://www.gp-patient.co.uk>

Shefford Health Centre Public Meeting



The second public meeting on proposals to build a multi-million pound health centre in Shefford took place on 8th January in Clifton.

With the local population set to grow significantly over the next two decades, a new medical centre would provide the space and facilities to:

- Provide a wider range of local services
- Improve services for patients with

long term conditions and for older people

- Provide diagnostic services, including ultrasound and a range of pathology testing
- Offer extended minor surgery and endoscopy
- Provide room to grow in modern, purpose build accommodation to meet increasing demand for health services.
- Provide space for less complex

specialists services closer to home. This would mean fewer hospitals trips and enable hospitals to concentrate on more complex care.

The Board of NHS Bedfordshire will consider the outcome at its open meeting on 18th March. If the proposals get the green light and if the planning processes go smoothly, the new medical centre could be seeing its first patients by 2010/11.

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Voluntary Action Luton



OBE for Beds Consultant



Dr Sue Gregory, former dental public health consultant for NHS Bedfordshire has been recognised in the Queen's New Years honours list and awarded an OBE for services to the NHS.

It caps a memorable year for Sue who has worked in Bedfordshire since 1977 and leaves NHS Bedfordshire to take up a post as Deputy Chief Dental Officer at the Department of Health this month.

NHS Bedfordshire Chief Executive Andrew Morgan congratulated Sue on her award and commented "Sue has made a huge contribution to dental services in Bedfordshire and I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone at NHS Bedfordshire in congratulating her on receiving this well deserved honour."

LUTON and SOUTH BEDS OUT OF HOURS/URGENT CARE PROVIDER

Luton and South Beds to procure a new Out-Of-Hours/Urgent Care Provider

We have been advised that the contract with CareUK who currently provide the out-of-hours and urgent care for Luton and South Beds comes to an end in June 2009.

A specification has been prepared in discussions with key health and social care providers and from information from the public.

Once the preferred bidders are shortlisted, the Bedfordshire LINK and the Luton Link are in discussions with the Luton PCT and Connection Quality Solutions who are overseeing the process about being



involved in the selection panel.

Please look out for further information on this in future bulletins.

If you are a member from Luton or South Beds and are interested in being involved, please contact Charlotte Bonser,

LINK Support Team Lead at our offices in New Bedford Road, Luton.



Something to say?

If you would like to insert an article in the next LINK Bulletin, please phone or email Nikki Dalrymple at: nikki.dalrymple@valuton.org.uk

We welcome your input. If you are attaching photos or logos, please ensure that you have the appropriate permission.

We look forward to hearing from you