

What's Happening at your Doncaster Local Involvement Network?

Your Doncaster LINK - Out and About During 2011

Introduction

As I am sure we are all aware, many established systems within health and social care services are already changing, especially the rundown of Primary Care Trusts and the setting up of Clinical Consortia. Doncaster LINK is continuing to fulfil the remit of community engagements to give members and the public opportunities to be informed and to have their say, as far as possible, about the impending changes and the effects locally.

Doncaster Local HealthWatch Development

In the proposed Health and Social Care Bill, the Government's expectation is that LINK's will no longer exist after 31st March or 30th September 2012. HealthWatch groups set up by local authorities will take over and be given extended responsibilities in relation to local monitoring of health and social care. In May, Doncaster LINK together with DMBC, put forward a proposal to become a HealthWatch Pathfinder and were granted that status in late July. A steering group has now been established including the following representation; DMBC, Doncaster LINK, NHS Doncaster, Doncaster CVS, RDaSH, Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Trust and Age UK. The group will explore how Local HealthWatch could best work in Doncaster.

Health and Wellbeing Board

A shadow board has been established in Doncaster to influence the strategic direction for meeting the health needs in respect of personal health, public health and social care in our area. Membership includes the following: Councillor Schofield (Chair DMBC), Joan Beck (Director of Adult and Community Services DMBC), Chris Pratt (Director of Children Services DMBC), Dr Eric Kelly (Clinical Consortium Lead), Dr Tony Baxter (Director of Public Health), Dr Rupert Suckling (Assistant Director of Public Health), Sheila Barnes (Chair of Doncaster LINK Executive Board) and Theo Jarrett (Admin Officer DMBC).

Doncaster LINK 2011 Election

In March this year the following members were elected on to the Executive Board: Joyce Parrott, Paul Morton, Ron Hughes, Dunlop Griffith, Glyn Jones (SYCIL) and Karen Wardman (Doncaster CVS).

Doncaster LINK's Annual General Meeting

Over 40 people attended the LINK AGM held on 10th June 2011 at the Doncaster Trades. Presentations were given about the LINK finances and the work carried out by the Executive Board, ICE Group and various sub-groups.

Doncaster LINK Social Event 12th January 2011

Due to the terrible weather which our area experienced last winter, the LINK Social Event planned for December was delayed until 12th January this year. The 24 attendees were able to chat to members of the Executive Board/ICE Group and find out more about the work carried out by LINK members during 2010 and our exciting plans for 2011.

Future of the NHS Event 21st January 2011

LINK held the above event at Doncaster Trades. Presentations were given by Annette Laban (CEO NHS Doncaster) and Dr Liz Rogers (GP and Clinical Director NHS Doncaster). Annette informed us of the structural changes which were taking place within the Primary Care Trust and that management of some services (Children and Family Services, Community Health Services and End of Life Services) were to be transferred to RDaSH NHS Foundation Trust and DMBC. Dr Rogers informed us of a consultation which was to take place regarding proposed changes of use at Mexborough Montague and Bassetlaw Hospitals to ensure that access to specialist emergency care would be more effectively provided at DRI and that recovery services could be better provided at Mexborough and Bassetlaw. The event was a great success with 39 people attending and new members being recruited as volunteers to the LINK.

Question Time Re: The Future of the NHS (Part 1) 11th February 2011

On February 11th Doncaster LINK held Part 1 of what is intended to be a series of events giving the residents of Doncaster the opportunity to find out more about the future of the NHS as the proposed changes begin to evolve. 17 diverse written questions about health and social care were addressed by the following panel members: Rosie Winterton (MP for Doncaster Central), Roger Greenwood (Chairman NHS Doncaster), Dr Alastair Graves (Medical Director), Peter Lee (Vice Chairman RDaSH), Joan Beck (Director of Adult and Community Services) and Dr Peter Reading (Interim Chief Executive of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation). A great event which was well attended and very informative.



General Medical Council and HealthWatch Event 23rd September 2011

An extremely interesting presentation was given by Tista Chakravarty-Gannon (GMC Regional Liaison Officer) who explained how the GMC monitor the work of individual doctors and how the organisation responds to patient referrals. Tista informed the audience that the GMC can only take action if information is received about patient experiences, therefore, people should be encouraged to report adverse issues. An update on Local HealthWatch was given by the LINK.

Doncaster LINK - Out and About in the Community

Doncaster LINK Coffee Mornings

Doncaster LINK has held 4 coffee mornings so far this year based around disability, health, mental health and cancer awareness. The coffee mornings continue to be a great success enabling the residents of Doncaster to be kept informed of events which are taking place, together with changes to services. They continue to be a great opportunity for you to let us know if you have any concerns relating to health and social care provision locally.

Doncaster LINK Sponsorship

On 2nd July Doncaster LINK sponsored a Disability Awareness event - which was well attended.

Doncaster LINK - Future Events

Question Time Re: The Future of the NHS Part 2 11th November 2011

Planning for the above event is well underway and will be held at Doncaster Rugby Club, Castle Park, Armthorpe Road, Doncaster DN2 5QB from 10am to 1pm with the following panel: Roger Greenwood (Chair NHS Doncaster), Madeleine Keyworth (Chair RDaSH), Ron Calvert (DBH NHS Foundation Trust) and Joan Beck (Director of Adult Care and Community Services DMBC) answering written questions from local people about health and social care.

Doncaster LINK Christmas Social 6th December 2011

The LINK will be holding its Christmas Social event (weather permitting!) on 6th December 2011 at Doncaster Trades, 18 South Mall, Frenchgate Centre, Doncaster DN1 1LL from 10am to 12 noon. This will be an informal event with a chance to chat to existing members, so please come along and bring a friend - we look forward to seeing you on the day!

Doncaster LINK - Working Groups

Medication Sub Group

Work carried out by the LINK's Hospital Discharge Sub Group highlighted a need for further investigation into medication being made available to patients upon discharge from hospital within the 4 hour guideline. The Medication Sub Group held their first meeting on 31st August 2011.

Dentistry in Highfields

Doncaster LINK produced a flyer which has been delivered to all residents of Highfields giving contact information to enable them to obtain easier access to dental services. The LINK has also sponsored a 'Toothbrush Campaign' in Highfields Primary School by providing free toothbrushes and toothpaste to all pupils to help improve their oral hygiene.



Autism Awareness

The Doncaster LINK Autism Awareness group are currently working in partnership with DMBC's 'Doncaster Autism Strategy Implementation Group' (ASIG) with an aim to develop a 'Good Practice Guide'.

Podiatry/Chiropody in Thorne/Moorends

The working group has completed a report around access to podiatry/chiropody in Thorne/Moorends. They are currently looking at changes made as a result of recommendations contained within the report which is available upon request.

Doncaster LINK - Become a Member - Contact the Host Team

A full report/further information about anything in our Newsletter is available by one of the following:

Tel:	01302 554970	Typetalk:	01302 554970
Mobile/Text:	07739 237452	Fax:	01302 554996
Website:	www.doncasterlink.co.uk	Email:	doncaster.admin@carersfederation.co.uk