

What's Happening at your Doncaster Local Involvement Network?

Annual General Meeting

The second Annual General Meeting of Doncaster LINK was held on 11th June 2010 at Doncaster Trades in the Frenchgate Centre, Doncaster. The event was attended by members, representatives from Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, NHS Doncaster, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and our Host team. Reports were given of the LINK's activities during the past twelve months, followed by an opportunity for questions to be put to the panel of presenters. An opportunity for networking followed during a buffet lunch. Completed evaluation forms confirmed the event had been a great success!



Executive Board Vacancy

Due to the recent resignation of John Plant from the Executive Board, invitations for notes of interest for candidates to fill the vacancy were sent to all members. One note of interest was submitted by Ron Hughes who had been involved in the election held earlier in the year. At the Executive Board meeting the Board unanimously agreed to co-opt Ron Hughes onto the Board, subsequently we would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ron and look forward to working with him in the coming months.

On Going/New Work Plans

Dentistry in Highfields Sub Group

The LINK has set up a group to look at access to dentists within the Highfields area. This issue was brought to the LINK by the local residents of Highfields. On 14th June 2010 an extremely successful meeting took place between Highfield residents and representatives of Doncaster NHS which included the Commissioning Manager for Dentistry in the Doncaster area. The residents' concerns were heard and they were informed that the way to register with a new dentist is via the Patient and Liaison Service (PALS). This information proved to be invaluable to the residents as they were previously unaware of how to access new services. Oral health was also discussed and the residents provided valuable insight as to how this information could be successfully distributed. A review of this event is due to take place and outcomes will be published in the next newsletter.

Podiatry/Chiropody in Thorne/Moorends Sub Group

LINK members attended an Information Sharing Event at Moorends Miners Welfare and Development Centre on 28th January 2010. During the event a number of local people raised concerns about accessing a chiropodist in their community. This issue was then raised at the Doncaster LINK Executive Board meeting held on 16th February 2010 where it was agreed a sub group would be formed to evaluate concerns around podiatry/chiropody in the Thorne/Moorends area. The first meeting of the sub group took place on 4th June 2010 and an action plan was devised. A further meeting took place on 22nd July 2010 which was attended by Andrew Brankin Head of Podiatry Doncaster Health Care to discuss the provision of service. The sub group have commissioned a professional research company to complete a survey to gauge public opinion in accessing podiatry/chiropody services in the Thorne/Moorends area. The findings/recommendations will be made available upon completion.

Autism Awareness

The autism sub group continues to meet on a monthly basis and is accessing health providers in relation to policies and procedures currently in place with regards to patients with autism. The group is keen to identify examples of good working practice and share these with all surgeries/practices who do not currently have policies and procedures in place. The next sub group meeting will take place in September 2010.

Out And About In The Community

Coffee Morning Café 21 Rossington Wednesday 26th May 2010

LINK members enjoyed meeting residents of Rossington along with the local Councillor and Neighbourhood Team. LINK literature and the usual goodies were handed out during the event. Three new members joined whilst existing members enjoyed having informal chats with the locals about ongoing sub groups and future plans.

Coffee Morning Bentley Pavilion Tuesday 29th June 2010

LINK volunteers served tea and coffee to all attending in a very relaxed and informal setting. One of the members even joined in with the keep fit ladies class that took place during the event! Seven new members were recruited and inductions for existing members were carried out keeping all present up to date with LINK activities.

Coffee Morning Sykehouse Village Hall Tuesday 27th July 2010

The coffee morning was a small event with some of the locals attending. Residents were informed about the LINK and promotional goods were issued. During the event two members were recruited and two issues identified.

Carers Group Meeting Forest Gate Wednesday 14th July 2010

The LINK was invited to speak to the carers group who were very receptive, especially in light of the proposed changes within the NHS. All ten carers of the event became members. This event highlighted the great potential the LINK has to inform and engage with the public around the proposed major changes to NHS services.

Dentistry in Thorne Conference Tuesday 8th June 2010

The LINK was invited to attend the above event in order to work in partnership with NHS Doncaster to address potential improvements in dentistry provision within the Thorne/Moorends area. The event was attended by over thirty people including professional health workers, local community champions and local residents. It proved to be an excellent networking opportunity for the LINK with its profile being raised with numerous stakeholders.

Future Events

Disability Awareness Event on Saturday 25th September 2010 at the Doncaster Deaf School

Doncaster LINK is proud to be the main sponsor of this event which is aimed at providing information for the disabled community of Doncaster. This successful event, which has taken place since 2008, helps people become aware of sources of information and existing services which can dramatically improve their lives. The LINK exists to influence improvement in social care for all residents of the Doncaster Borough. All are welcome so please come along and see what is on offer.

Information Communication and Engagement Group

The ICE Group has been pro-active with regular free coffee mornings throughout the Borough. This is where residents can express opinions/concerns/views regarding health and social care. As a direct result of the coffee mornings and members working in partnership with other organisations sub groups have been formed to help resolve identified issues. The ICE Group are currently involved in the planning of a six-day community road-show event to be held in the Frenchgate Centre, Doncaster with LBV TV who will be producing a high definition live-action commercial to raise the awareness of the LINK. The LINK has also become a member of the Doncaster Chamber of Commerce giving access to approximately 1200 local businesses in order to engage them with the LINK.

SINE FM / LINK Advertising

If you feel you can chat about Doncaster LINK, what it is doing and your part in influencing our local health and social services now is your chance. Sheila Barnes did it in June and Dot Head did it in July, it's more fun than you might think. Why not have a go by contacting one of the host team to register your interest.

Whilst out and about look out for LINK posters in the Doncaster and Mexborough Railway Stations and Robin Hood Sheffield Doncaster Airport. The posters are strategically placed to give maximum exposure to the Doncaster LINK raising our profile and encouraging new membership.

Doncaster LINK - Become a Member

Doncaster LINK welcomes all new members, to join contact the Host team 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