

Get involved! Help improve health and social care services in Reading.

**Reading LINK e-bulletin 2
31st March 2009**

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Reading LINK Stakeholder Event Feedback

Reading LINK held its first stakeholder event on 26th January 2009, attended by 43 representatives from local voluntary & community groups, as well as statutory organisations.

We asked the groups to consider how services could be improved to prevent people falling between health and social care services and how we can make sure everyone in the community is able to access the health and social care they may need. The information gathered from the discussion tables at the Stakeholder Event, highlighted two distinct and recurrent themes about what was important. As a result Reading LINK have decided to focus their work programme around the two following key issues:

- o *The Need for Person Centered Health & Social Care Services*
- o *Access to Information Relating to Health & Social Care*

Future issues referred to Reading LINK will be reviewed with a particular focus on these two key areas.

If you would like a copy of our report providing more details of the outcomes from the stakeholder event, please contact us (contact details provided below).

Communications

Reading LINK is only at the beginning of it's journey working with local people, finding out views about local health and social care. We plan to attend local meetings and events to promote the role of Local Involvement Networks and to encourage people to get involved. Sharing information about what we are doing is also an important focus for us. One of the ways Reading LINK will do this, will be sending out monthly e-bulletins providing updates and information.

If you wish to make Reading LINK aware of an issue, share your views or have any suggestions about local health and social care services, please do get in contact and let us know.

Find out more about Reading LINK

If you would like a representative from Reading LINK to come along to one of your group meetings or events, please do contact us:

Sheena Masoero – LINK Co-ordinator – sheena@volaction.demon.co.uk

<http://volaction.demon.co.uk/>

Elaine Holloway – Development Worker – elaine@volaction.demon.co.uk

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**Public consultations
Single Equality Scheme**

Berkshire West PCT has launched its draft Single Equality Scheme. The scheme is a public commitment of how the PCT plans to meet the duties placed upon it. The PCT would like to hear your views. Details of the scheme can be found on their website via the following link:

<http://www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/page.asp?fldArea=1&fldMenu=1&fldSubMenu=5&fldKey=709>
<<http://www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/page.asp?fldArea=1&fldMenu=1&fldSubMenu=5&fldKey=709>>.

Assisted Conception/ IVF Policies

Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) across NHS South Central (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire) have undertaken a joint review of IVF policies and recognise that there needs to be a single policy which takes into account the views of local people and will ensure that everyone gets the same access to IVF treatment. The PCT would like to hear your views, details can be found on their website via the following Link:

http://www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/news_item.asp?fldID=201

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