

**Reading LINK e-bulletin 6
September 2009**

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Reading LINK Elections & AGM 20th October 2009 5-7pm Kennet Room, Civic Centre

Reading LINK will be holding its first AGM on 20th October 2009, an opportunity to share with attendees the progress made during its first year, looking at how public involvement can help shape local services, encouraging more people to get involved and giving members of the LINK Reference Group an opportunity to vote on the appointment of the new LINK board. Membership of the Reference Group is open to individuals who are over 18 and who live or work, paid or voluntary in the Reading Borough area.

If you have not already registered your interest with the Reading LINK and wish to do so please respond to this e-mail requesting a Reference Group Form. You may also wish to give consideration to the possibility of nominating a suitable candidate for election to the Reading LINK Board, for more information and/or a nomination form please respond to this e-mail requesting these items. The closing date for any nominations is Monday 21st September 2009.

Proposals for Improving Heart Services – Your comments invited

Berkshire West PCT is conducting an engagement programme with local stakeholders about proposals for improving services for people who have suffered a heart attack.

The proposals involve providing emergency angioplasties (where blocked arteries are held open by an implant known as a stent) round the clock throughout the year.

The proposals centre on three options for where the service would be provided and further details are available on Berkshire West PCT's Website:

<http://www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/page.asp?fldArea=1&fldMenu=4&fldSubMenu=7&fldKey=773>

including a copy of the "Improving Services – Saving lives" leaflet. Feedback is welcomed as comments will be used to further shape the proposals before they go to full consultation in October.

Comments can be made to Chris Birdsall, PPCI Engagement Manager at Chris.Birdsall@berkshire.nhs.uk or by calling 01189 822823 before September 28th

New Beginnings – Expert Patient Programme for those living with a mental health condition

NHS Berkshire West and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust are running another New Beginnings – Expert Patient Programme which is specifically for adults whose life has been affected by living with a mental health condition. “Learn new skills, meet new people and increase your confidence. Don’t let a mental health condition rule your life. This group approach is friendly, informal and motivating.” The course introduces many topics and activities to enable individuals to manage and adapt to the problems they encounter in daily living. The course starts on 20th October and is one afternoon a week for seven consecutive weeks. There is also a taster session on 6th October for participants to find out more and meet other participants.

The course is free and self referral but places are limited so please book places early to avoid disappointment. To find out more or to book a place please contact Jo Gilbert on 01344 415 840 or email Joanna.gilbert@berkshire.nhs.uk .

NHS Berkshire West are seeking a Diabetes Representative

NHS Berkshire West would like to have a user perspective to help develop the diabetes patient services in West Berkshire. “We are looking for a person with diabetes, or a parent/carer of a person with diabetes who has an understanding of the local diabetes services. It would also be beneficial if they had some experience of committee work and good communication skills.

The role will include attendance, every two months, at WEBDIG which is the local diabetes network meeting. We would also like the diabetes representative to be available 3-4 hours a month for a range of different meetings.

If you are interested and would like us to send you a role description please contact David Buckle (Medical Director) at david.buckle@berkshire.nhs.uk or by writing to NHS Berkshire West, 57 -59 Bath Rd., Reading, Berks. RG30 2BA”

Supporting people with complex personality disorder – Consultation feedback

More than 370 people and organisations have helped the NHS shape services for people with complex personality disorder. Between April and July 2009, the NHS in the East of England, London, South Central and South East Coast regions asked members of the public, carers, service users and health professionals to share their views about how services should be organised.

All of the feedback has been compiled independently and will be considered in detail by the NHS. A draft summary of the feedback is available to download on the ‘Have your say’ section of www.westkentpct.nhs.uk <<http://www.westkentpct.nhs.uk/>> .

Of the 373 individuals and organisations that responded to the consultation, almost all agreed there was a need for some change and ongoing development in the way services are organised (98%). The majority supported the idea of setting up some form of regional specialist teams (95%). Nine out of ten thought that both outreach teams and long term residential facilities were needed (92%). But there was less agreement about how many residential facilities would be beneficial.

People felt that the NHS had a real opportunity to make a positive difference to the lives of people with complex personality disorder and

were eager to continue being involved in shaping services.

On 11 November 2009, an NHS committee representing the four regions will meet to consider the next steps. The meeting will be held in public at 3pm at the Old Council Chamber at the Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL. Members of the public are welcome to attend to listen to the committee's discussions.

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 or you would like to find out more, please do contact us:

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

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

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