

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

**Reading LINK e-bulletin 11  
February 2010**

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**Reading LINK Community Survey Launch – 25th February – Broad Street Mall**

The Reading LINK Community survey will be launched on Thursday 25th February 2010, in the Broad Street Mall. We will be available from 9.30am –5pm encouraging people to stop at our stand and complete the community survey, giving their feedback on local Health and Social care services. Reading LINK hope to gather wider public opinion about what people think about their local services and determine what are the priorities for Reading LINK to take forward. This will be the first of several public ‘drop-by sessions’ being planned over the coming months, more details to follow. The survey will also be available to complete on-line at <http://www.readinglinkcommunitysurvey.co.uk/>

**Reading LINK Pilot Community survey**

Following the completion of the pilot survey in December 2009 – Preliminary analysis suggests that Mental Health Services (including different types of counselling), Social Services for the Elderly and Access to NHS Dental Services maybe issues of concern in Reading. The findings from the Community survey will further inform this preliminary analysis as to what issues the Reading LINK will be taking forward in the future. A full report of the findings from this survey will be available shortly on the Reading LINK website.

From the charities nominated to be entered into a draw, with a chance to win a £50 donation from Reading LINK – the lucky winner pulled from the hat was – The Salvation Army.

**Reading LINK have helped to improve the standard of care for those on the Autistic spectrum in A&E**

The Berkshire Autistic Society brought to the Reading LINK an issue regarding the standard of care offered to those on the autistic spectrum in A & E. The report showing the progress facilitated by the Reading LINK which enabled collaborative working between the Berkshire Autistic

Society and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust towards improving the service, can be found at <http://readinglink.org.uk/reportsandrecommendations>

**Reading LINK have highlighted the needs of older people in respect of access to toenail cutting**

This issue was brought to Reading LINK by Age Concern, Reading.

Their concern was that toe nail cutting for older people is no longer provided by NHS Berkshire West and increasingly access to foot care services is dependent on ability to pay rather than need.

Disadvantaged older people are unable to access toe nail cutting services, frequently resulting in poor mobility, loss of independence and social isolation. The final report and recommendations made to NHS Berkshire West can be found at

<http://readinglink.org.uk/reportsandrecommendations>

**NHS Berkshire West Health Network Meeting – 23rd February 2010 –6pm-8pm Wokingham Town Hall**

NHS Berkshire West are holding their 6th Health Network Meeting, where they will be asking opinions on 2 primary care subjects: GP Access and actions taken by the PCT to increase availability of GP Services and the second subject is GP performance information. If you would like more information or would like to book a place you can email

[healthnetwork@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:healthnetwork@berkshire.nhs.uk) or call NHS Berkshire West on 0118 982 2962/2916.

**Reading Older People's Partnership – Dignity in Care Discussion – 24th February 2010**

10am-12.45pm, Greyfriars Church Hall, Friar Street, Reading.

The Dignity in Care Campaign aims to stimulate a national debate around dignity in care and create a care system where there is zero tolerance of abuse and disrespect of adults. It is about winning hearts and minds, changing the culture of care services and placing a greater emphasis on improving quality of care and the experience of citizens using care and support services. If you have dementia, are a carer or a professional involved in planning or providing services for older people, you are invited to go along and take part in discussions about what would make a difference when using services.

To book a place phone 0118 937 2808 or email

[julie.dacombe@reading.gov.uk](mailto:julie.dacombe@reading.gov.uk)

**'Vision and Voice' Voluntary and Community Sector Conference - Monday 22nd March 2010**

09.30 – 15.30 - Royal Berkshire Conference Centre - Madejski Stadium

The 'Vision and Voice' conference is the local voluntary and community sector's opportunity to directly input into the vision for Reading 2030. Under discussion will be the key issues that the VCS want to see included in the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy. Presentations and workshops will identify aspirations, priorities and ideas on how Reading should adapt and grow to promote the wellbeing of the town's residents.

More information on the conference, including speaker information and further details of a 'take-away toolkit' to help local groups

identify their own priorities, will be available shortly. For more details, please visit <http://www.rvsforum.co.uk/events.aspx>  
The conference is free to anyone involved with a voluntary and community group in Reading. To book your place, please call Anna Fowler on 0118 558 4849 or use the form on <http://www.rvadirectory.org.uk/eventreg/20100322/visionandvoice>

**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](mailto:sheena@volaction.demon.co.uk)

Elaine Holloway – Development Worker – [elaine@volaction.demon.co.uk](mailto:elaine@volaction.demon.co.uk)

Reading Voluntary Action

35-39 London Street

Reading

RG1 4PS

Tel: 0118 958 4849

Or Visit our website by clicking here: <http://readinglink.org.uk/>

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