

Reading LINK e-bulletin 24  
April 2011

- Reading LINK – Final Report on Access to NHS Dentistry
- Outcome following Public Consultation on Adult Social Care in Reading
- Surgical Services for Children with Congenital Heart Conditions – Public Consultation
- NHS Reforms – Listening Exercise – How to get involved
- Childhood Immunisations – NHS Berkshire West are seeking local views
- NHS Berkshire West Health Network Meeting – 18th May, Woodley
- INDI South East Disability Networking Meeting - 19th May, The Warehouse
- Find out more about Reading LINK

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## **Reading LINK – Final Report on Access to NHS Dentistry**

The final report on this work will be available shortly on the LINK website. This work was undertaken by the LINK as local people had identified that finding an NHS Dentist was an issue. NHS Berkshire West has undertaken work to provide more information to help people find an NHS dentist locally, provided more funding for NHS Dentists and this has resulted in more people being able to sign up to see an NHS dentist. The LINK will continue to monitor progress in the area.

## **Outcome following Public Consultation on Adult Social Care in Reading**

Reading Borough Council voted on 29th March to change the Council's eligibility threshold for Adult Social care from "greater moderate" to "substantial" and to adopt a new Fairer Charging policy, this followed a 12 week consultation where local people gave their views.

It was highlighted to the Council that they needed to give people time to adjust to these changes, so they won't begin to review existing service users against this new criteria until this summer. Individual service users will receive a personal letter before their review outlining what to expect. When these reviews are carried the Council will be inviting carers to have their own needs reviewed or assessed for the first time.

The Council have also said that they will be helping individuals and families to identify suitable alternative services in the community if people are no longer eligible for all of the services which were previously arranged through Adult Social Care. People who want to find out more about services can view the Council's Resource Directory at [www.reading.gov.uk/resourcedirectory](http://www.reading.gov.uk/resourcedirectory) or telephone the Reading Adult Contact Team on 0118 937 3747.

## **Surgical Services for Children with Congenital Heart Conditions – Public Consultation**

A national consultation that is taking place about surgical services for children with congenital heart conditions. The NHS is consulting on proposals to focus the surgical expertise in heart conditions into larger, fewer centres in England.

In the NHS South Central area there were two trusts providing paediatric cardiac surgery services up until February last year, when the Oxford Radcliffe suspended their service. Southampton General Hospital provides this service now.

Currently, Southampton is included in one of the four options for the number and location of children's cardiac services for the future, but not included in the three other proposals.

These proposals will not be finalised until people have had their chance to respond and say what they think the best way forward is. This consultation will run until 1 July 2011.

You can have your say in a number of ways:

Read the proposals and fill in the online questionnaire at

[www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safeandsustainable](http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safeandsustainable)

Telephone for a paper copy of the proposals on 020 7025 7520

Attend a public event to find out more on Wednesday 4th May 2011 from 6-8pm at the Kassam stadium, Oxford

For more information please ring Karen Redford at NHS Berkshire West on 0118 982 2916

Reading LINK would be keen to hear any comments you may have on these proposals.

## **NHS Reforms "Listening Exercise" - How to get involved**

As you will have heard in the press the Government have launched a "Listening exercise" to help improve their plans for modernisation of the health service by listening to the views of patients, professionals and the public.

Find out how you can get involved by visiting <http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/listening-exercise-how-to-get-involved/>

### **Childhood Immunisations - NHS Berkshire West are seeking local views**

NHS Berkshire West are seeking views from parents and guardians especially in the Reading area, about how the PCT can encourage the take up of childhood immunisations and what prevents parents taking their children for immunisations. This consultation runs until 29th April 2011. To give your views please visit <https://haveyoursay.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/consult.ti/childimms11/consultationHome> or contact NHS Berkshire West on 0118 982 2916

### **NHS Berkshire West Health Network Meeting – 18th May, Woodley**

NHS Berkshire West invite you to the next Health Network meeting on 18 May 2011 at The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley RG5 4JZ between 10am and 1pm.

NHS Berkshire West would like to ask your views about two topics: Together with partners, they have produced a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This document is a national requirement. It identifies the current and future health and well being needs of the local population and identifies where the gaps and unmet needs may be and what NHS Berkshire West plan to do about them. At the meeting they will specifically be looking at their plans for healthcare in long term conditions and older people. However, they need patient and carer views on their assessment and plans.

Secondly, they will be undertaking a discussion and "listening exercise" about the current NHS reform proposals. Any comments they get will be fed back to the Department of Health, so it will be a good opportunity to have your say about the future of the NHS.

If you would like to attend please RSVP by telephone on 0118 982 2916 or by email to [health.network@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:health.network@berkshire.nhs.uk) by Wednesday 11th May. There will be tea and coffee through the morning and the meeting will end with a free lunch at 1pm.

### **INDI South East Disability Networking Meeting - 19th May, The Warehouse**

Infrastructure Network for Disability Information (INDI) South East extend invitations to their free disability networking meeting which is taking place on 19th May 2011 at The Warehouse, 1a Cumberland Road, Reading, RG1 3LB, 10.30am-12.30pm. This meeting aims to provide networking and information sharing forum for organisations with an interest in disability issues. There will be two guest speakers, one from Social Enterprise Berkshire, speaking about Personalisation & Opportunities for Social Enterprise and one talking about Reading Local Involvement Network (LINK). If you would like to attend please e-mail Oonagh Brown at [oonagh@asksid.org.uk](mailto:oonagh@asksid.org.uk) to book your place.

### **Find out more about Reading LINK**

There have been some changes to the LINK staff team recently, in that Elaine Holloway, LINK Development Worker retired at the end of March. LINK would like to thank Elaine for all her contributions to LINK work and wish her well in her retirement. Sheena Masoero will be taking up this role and LINK welcome Merlyn Barrett who will be joining the LINK team in May. Recruitment for the replacement Co-ordinator post is underway.

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 – [sheena.masoero@rva.org.uk](mailto:sheena.masoero@rva.org.uk) <[sheena.masoero@rva.org.uk](mailto:sheena.masoero@rva.org.uk)>

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