

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

**Reading LINK e-bulletin 12
March 2010**

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Reading LINK Community Survey – Public Drop In Sessions

The Reading LINK Community survey continues with a further public drop in session on 24th March 2010 at Greyfriars Church Hall in Friar Street, between 10am and 1pm. Join us for a coffee and give your feedback on local Health and Social Care Services, if you live in the Reading Borough.

Reading LINK aim to gather wider public opinion about what people think about their local services and determine what the priorities are for Reading LINK to take forward.

A further drop-in session will then be held on 8th April in Southcote Library, near Coronation Square, between 10am-12.30pm.

The survey is also be available to complete on-line at <http://www.readinglinkcommunitysurvey.co.uk/>

NHS Berkshire West are seeking a lay representative to join the Effective Prescribing Committee

NHS Berkshire West has established the Effective Prescribing Committee (EPC) to ensure the safe, effective and cost effective use of medicines in Berkshire West. The EPC produces recommendations for how and when certain medicines should be used. EPC members have a variety of backgrounds including GPs, pharmacists and doctors from NHS Berkshire West and from hospital. Following consultation work with NHS Berkshire West's Health Network and local LINKs it was decided that a Patient and Public Representative would greatly enhance this decision-making process. The EPC meets every two months. Meetings last approximately 2 hours and will require the representative to read the papers prior to the meeting. If you are interested or would like to find out more please contact Karen Redford on 01189 822916 or via e-mail to healthnetwork@berkshire.nhs.uk by 23rd March 2010.

Your choice of GP practice – Have your say

Last September the Government announced their intention to abolish the current system of GP catchment areas, so that people can register where they want, for example near their home or perhaps near their work. The Department of Health have launched a public consultation, to hear views from the public, patient groups and those who work in the NHS. If you

would like to take part or find out more information visit <http://www.gpchoice.dh.gov.uk/> the consultation closes on 28th May 2010.

NHS Summary Care Records (SCR)

The NHS is changing the way health information is stored and managed, NHS Summary Care Records are being introduced to help deliver better, safer care. Recently NHS Berkshire West sent out information packs about this to all Berkshire West residents registered with a GP aged 16 and over. This provided details of the changes and assumed that residents were happy for records to be created for them, however for people who do not want a record created they have to 'opt' out of the system by contacting the NHS Care Records Service information line on 0845 603 8510 by 14th May 2010. For more information visit http://www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/page_sa.asp?fldKey=232. Any general comments or feedback about these changes are welcomed by Reading LINK.

Launch of Telephone Befriending Groups for Older People – 9th April 2010 12-2.30pm Kennet Room, Civic Centre

Community Networks and Reading Borough Council are launching a pilot project which aims to improve the health, well-being and independence of older people by reducing feelings of loneliness and social exclusion by setting up telephone self-help and befriending groups. To find out more or to register your interest in the launch meeting please contact Emma Doherty at emma@community-network.org or on 020 7923 5250.

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:

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Elaine Holloway – Development Worker – elaine.holloway@rva.org.uk

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