

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

**Reading LINK e-bulletin 13  
April 2010**

- **Reading LINK Community Survey – Public Drop-In Session on 13th May – Battle Library**
- **Reading Patients & Families to Benefit from New Essential Standards of Care**
- **Diabetes Care in Reading - Reading LINK Final Report and Recommendations**
- **Reading Borough Council – Active Lifestyles Briefing for Partner Organisations & Groups – 30th April 2010**
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- **NHS Berkshire West Health Network Meeting – 19th May 2010 - 10am Green Park**
- **Have your say and improve major trauma services by contributing to a new online forum**
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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 13th May 2010 at Battle Library, Oxford Road, between 10am and 12.30pm.

Come along and give your feedback on local Health and Social Care Services, if you live in the Reading Borough. Reading LINK aims 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.

The survey is also be available to complete on-line at

<http://www.readinglinkcommunitysurvey.co.uk/>

#### **Reading patients & families to benefit from new essential standards of care**

From April 2010 new essential standards of quality and safety are being introduced gradually across all health and adult social care services in England. The Care Quality Commission (CQC), the new independent regulator of health and adult social care, will license services if they meet essential standards and will constantly monitor them to make sure they are compliant with new legislation about to be passed in parliament.

NHS trusts are the first to come into the new system starting 1 April this year; they will be followed in October by all providers of social care for people over 18 years of age and by providers of independent healthcare. Over the coming two years the system will include all primary care and dentists too.

For more information go to <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

#### **Diabetes Care in Reading - Reading LINK Final Report and Recommendations**

This issue was brought to Reading LINK by the Reading & District Voluntary Diabetes Group. Approximately 40 people living with diabetes from this group met and identified concerns over aspects of diabetes care, where they felt that services could be improved:

- **Insulin Pump Therapy**
- **Retinal Eye Screening**
- **Education & Information for newly diagnosed diabetics**
- **Appointments with specialists**

As a result of work carried out on this project Reading LINK have submitted a report which included 3 recommendations to NHS Berkshire West and the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in relation to insulin pump provision, retinal screening and education for people newly diagnosed with diabetes. A key outcome of the work also included the co-hosting of a successful diabetes event with NHS Berkshire West, attended by over 70 people.

Reading LINK conclude that, the profile of getting patients involved in shaping diabetes care in Berkshire West has increased significantly and has come about as a result of these issues being raised by the Reading LINK.

The Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Berkshire West have both responded positively to the report and will be taking the recommendations forward.

A full copy of the report will be available shortly on the Reading LINK website.

### **Reading Borough Council – Active Lifestyles Briefing for Partner Organisations & Groups – 30th April 2010**

Reading Borough Council's Active Lifestyles team are running a briefing for their partner organisations and groups on "Everybody Active" - sports/activity programmes.

The briefing will be at The Avenue Centre (Conwy Close, Tilehurst), Conwy Room on Friday 30th April between 12 noon and 2pm and will provide information and discuss opportunities on how you might be able to use "Active Lifestyles" programmes with your service users. You might also have ideas and suggestions for future programmes that you want to share with the Active Lifestyle Team.

If you would like to attend please contact Mike Cooper at

[mike.cooper@reading.gov.uk](mailto:mike.cooper@reading.gov.uk)

### **Reading Older People's Partnership – Open Meeting - 12th May 2010 10am Greyfriars Church Hall**

Local organisations, the Council & the NHS are developing a shared plan to provide services that help older people in Reading enjoy a better quality of life. The Reading Older People's Partnership want to support older people in Reading to stay healthy, stay independent and stay safe. You are invited to go along to their open meeting to share your ideas on what would really make a difference. Wednesday 12th May, 10am-12.45pm, Greyfriars Church Hall, Friar Street, Reading.

Refreshments will be provided. If you would like to attend RSVP by calling 0118 937 3204 or by e-mail to [ROPP@reading.gov.uk](mailto:ROPP@reading.gov.uk)

### **NHS Berkshire West Health Network Meeting – 19th May 10am-1pm – Green Park**

NHS Berkshire West are holding their Health Network Meeting in May to discuss and seek opinions from attendees on two projects. Firstly NHS Berkshire West and a number of their physiotherapy providers are currently reviewing the provision of local physiotherapy services. The purpose of the review is to understand what is required from physiotherapy services, whether there are alternative ways of providing care (ie specialist exercise classes) and what works well or could be improved. Secondly, the NHS is offering free health checks for people aged between 40-74. The health check assesses people's risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. This service will be explained at the meeting and NHS Berkshire West will be seeking opinions from attendees on how to best promote the service, especially to those who do not visit their GP. The meeting is being held from 10am-1pm at The Business Centre, 100 Longwater Avenue, Green Park, RG2 6GP, refreshments will be available and the meeting will end with a free lunch. If you would like to attend please let NHS Berkshire West know by calling Karen Redford on 0118 9822 916 or via e-mail to [healthnetwork@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:healthnetwork@berkshire.nhs.uk)

### **Have your say and improve major trauma services by contributing to a new online forum**

Major trauma is the leading cause of death in those aged between one and forty

years. Major trauma means multiple, serious injuries which could lead to death or serious disability. These might include serious head injuries, severe gunshot wounds or road traffic accidents. Serious injuries of this kind have a high personal impact on patients and families, and the challenges of providing high quality care increase when patients have to be moved between different hospitals for treatment. For this reason the Department of Health has recently taken steps to re-organise major trauma care into specialist centres.

As part of the efforts to improve major trauma care, the Major Trauma Improvement Forum has been launched and can be accessed at <http://majortrauma.net/>. The aim is to give patients, families, carers and professionals, as well as those representing these groups an opportunity to influence the improvement of major trauma care. If you have direct experience of major trauma we'd like you to visit the forum, sign up and give us your views – by completing a short online survey, taking part in a poll or discussion or by speaking to us in person. We'd also like you to forward the link on to any colleagues, contacts or networks who may be interested in giving their views. We are particularly interested in getting the views of patients, their families and carers so if you're able to help with this please let us know. If you require any more information or have any questions please email us at [mtif@opm.co.uk](mailto:mtif@opm.co.uk)

#### **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.masoero@rva.org.uk](mailto:sheena.masoero@rva.org.uk)

Elaine Holloway – Development Worker – [elaine.holloway@rva.org.uk](mailto:elaine.holloway@rva.org.uk)

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