

Reading LINK e-bulletin 28 August 2011

- **NHS Reforms/Healthwatch Update**
- **National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE): Become a lay member of the feverish illness in children under 5yrs guideline group - 31 Aug**
- **JSNA engagement throughout August and September**
- **Health Expo-a free community event - 21st Aug**
- **'We need to talk' consultation – Reading Borough Council**
- **THINKGLUCOSE Project brings improvements in diabetes care**
- **Parenting Special Children –a free diagnosis support service**
- **Find out more about Reading LINK**

NHS Reforms/Healthwatch Update

Changes and updates are occurring as a result of the NHS Future Forum report to the Government. GP Consortia will now involve patients, carers, the public and a wide range of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. These groups will be known as Clinical Commissioning Groups, (formally known as GP Consortia). Two of these groups are already set up in Reading, as Pathfinders. LINKs are evolving into Local Healthwatch, which will happen in Oct 2012. Local Healthwatch will provide a collective voice for patients and carers, and advise the new Clinical Commissioning Groups on the shape of local services to ensure they are informed by the views of the local community. In preparation for this LINKs across the country were invited to become Pathfinder Healthwatch, 75 that applied have been accepted and will become learning sets for transition. Reading LINK will be working with Reading Borough Council to make preparations for transition to Healthwatch however, have agreed not to apply for Pathfinder status. Greater emphasis on patient and public agreement has been put in place throughout the report.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE): Get involved.

Recruitment of Quality Standard – Management of hip fracture in adults- 15 Aug

NICE value the contribution that patients and carers make to their guidance, and they are currently recruiting lay members of the expert group developing a quality standard on the management of hip fracture in adults. For details click here

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qualitystandards/indevelopment/HipFracture.jsp>,

And details of what membership involves and how to get involved can be found here

<http://www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/joinnwc/LayMemberHipFractureTEG.jsp>.

Recruitment for this quality standard is open until 15 August 2011, up to 12 pm.

Become a lay member of the feverish illness in children under 5yrs guideline development group- 31 Aug

NICE are currently recruiting parent and carer members of the Guideline Development Group for Feverish illness in children. Details of this guideline can be found at

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG/WaveR/108>, and details of what membership involves and how to get involved can be found here

<http://www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/joinnwc/FeverishIllnessChildrenGDGLay.jsp>.

Contributions from service users and members of the public are very welcome.

Recruitment for this guideline is open until 31st August 2011. Please get in touch with Erin Whittingham on Tel: 44 (0)161 870 3022 if you have any questions about this.

JSNA engagement throughout August and September

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a mandatory requirement and a joint responsibility for Primary Care Trusts and upper tier Local Authorities. The JSNA tells the PCT what the health and social care needs of the local population are– now and in

the future. The JSNA findings inform planning and 'commissioning priorities' Throughout August and September, the PCT are asking for people's views on the following modules of the JSNA:

August:

- Children and Young People
- Wellbeing and Prevention
- Mental Health
- Sexual Health
- Communicable Diseases

September:

- Reducing Inequalities
- Cancer
- Environmental Sustainability
- Autism
- Domestic Violence
- End of Life Care
- Neurological Conditions

The summary of the modules and questionnaires will be available on their website <<http://www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/>> If you have any questions, please contact: The Engagement Team, NHS Berkshire West, 57 - 59 Bath Road, Reading, RG30 2BA Tel:0118 982 2916, E mail: ppi.team@berkshire.nhs.uk

Health Expo-a free community event - Sunday 21st Aug

The Health Expo is a FREE community event put on annually that encourages members of the public to take ownership of their own health and lifestyle choices through free health checks, lifestyle assessments, fun activities, health counseling and much more. As a faith group, the church believes it is their duty to provide this free service to the community teaching the principles of holistic/total health in an inclusive and interactive way. The event is on Sunday August 21st at Park United Reformed Church Hall, 2:30pm - 6:30pm

'We need to talk' consultation – Reading Borough Council

Reading Borough Council is setting up an on-going process that gives Reading people a direct channel for their feedback to Council officials and councillors. Reading Borough Council already consults local people on particular issues. What makes this different is that they want to move away from one-off consultations and establish a long-term working relationship, based on an on-going conversation about the things that most affect you and your community. Click the following link to go to the consultation questionnaire.

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/General.asp?id= SX14AB-A785CE47>

Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust – THINKGLUCOSE Project brings improvements in diabetes care

Over the past year staff at the Royal Berkshire Hospital have been working with patients on the ThinkGlucose project, which set out to improve care and experience of people with diabetes when they were admitted to the hospital for other non-diabetes related problems. Reading LINK have been involved with the project encouraging interested people to become involved in the Patient Experience Work Stream, following on from early work carried out on Diabetes Care.

Reading LINK are pleased to report that ThinkGlucose has been a success – diabetic patients are referred routinely to the Diabetes Specialist Team, ensuring fast and appropriate diabetes care whilst in hospital and patients are now discharged with a plan of care to ensure smooth transition back into primary care. A six-month education programme for ward staff has resulted in measurable improvements in knowledge about diabetes and patients are now able to manage their own medication whilst in hospital. Patients have also reported that their care has improved since the ThinkGlucose project. Work is continuing, to ensure staff stay up to date, that the hospital are identifying all the patients that are admitted with diabetes and these are being referred to the diabetes specialist team. This should result in patients spending less time in hospital, with a better experience and care.

Parenting Special Children –a new FREE diagnosis support service

Parents/carers of children who have had a recent diagnosis of a disability, learning difficulty, or developmental delay are welcome to the Dingley Family & Specialist Early Years Centre (near Toys 'R' US) Kennet Walk Community Building, Kenavon Road, Reading, RG1 3GD. Fridays Term-Time Only, from 10am to 12pm and 12.30 pm to 2pm. To make an appointment, please contact Catherine Greaves on 07990 761676 or email Catherine@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk . For more information, please visit www.parentingspecialchildren.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 – Development Worker – sheena.masoero@rva.org.uk

Merlyn Barrett – Development Worker – merlyn.barrett@rva.org.uk

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

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