

Sandwell LINK



Issue 3 May 2009

Developing health and social care services around you



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Meet Sandwell LINK's Management Group for 2009-2010!

On Tuesday 3rd March 2009, Sandwell LINK's Management Group for 2009 – 2010 was announced to the public at an Extraordinary General Meeting, which took place at the Conference Suite, Thomas Street, West Bromwich.

Application forms were sent out to all members of the LINK, inviting them to apply for a position on the Management Group. Nine applications were received, therefore in line with the LINK's constitution, that the number of Management Group members

shall not be less than six and no more than twelve, no vote was held and the nine applicants were announced as the Management Group for 2009 – 2010.

The members of the Management Group are:



John Cash: John has been actively campaigning for and on local health issues for over 20 years. He has also been part of many active groups within Sandwell such as the Health Forum in Langley. He belongs to Supporting People and represents service users on this panel. He was also a former chair of the old Smethwick Patient and Public Involvement in Health forum and prior to this he was former chair of West Birmingham Community Health Council.

Bob Cohen: Bob has a keen interest in Health and Social Care particularly centred on elderly people. He has worked with carers, used to be Chairman of a Resident's Association and also helped to get SureStart set up in the Capehill area of Sandwell. He is also part of the Sandwell Community Information and Participation Service (SCIPs) and has been a member of Agewell for 10 years. He has experience of chairing meetings and is currently chair of the Smethwick Forum and the Smethwick Housing Service Panel.



Sheila Clarke: Sheila has an interest in a variety of health and social care areas including Acute Trusts, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and ensuring good communication and cooperation between staff, patients and relatives. She has nursing skills, social welfare and social skills as well as previous experience of Patient and Public Involvement and current PEAT experience. She was Vice Chair for the former Patient and Public Involvement Forum for Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Foundation Trust. She is also a member of Sandwell PCT Patient Experience Forum.

Debbie Elwell: Debbie is the Vice Chair of SURG (Service User Reference Group) and she sits on various boards within the Trusts. She is involved in decision making for services and is also part of auditing services throughout Sandwell. She has worked with elderly people and people with learning disabilities.





Carol Gallimore: Carol has a strong interest in infection control in hospitals. She also does hospital visits and PEAT audits for City Hospital under Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. She is a Trustee at CARES and is currently trying to help set up a patient forum at her local GP.



William Hodgetts: William is a committee member of the Cardiac Club in Sandwell and he is also a tutor with the Expert Patient Programme. He attends public Board meetings and has been a member of the LINK Interim Management Group.



Pam Jones: Pam has a particular interest in long term conditions and disability and the services provided in these areas. She has experience of being a member in various local and national voluntary organisations and charities undertaking roles as secretary, treasurer and chairman. She was the former Chairman of the Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forum for Sandwell. She has 30 years experience of working within health and social care.



Dorothy Nemedi: Dorothy has a keen interest in the concerns of the elderly and the disabled, as well as in mental health. She is on a panel with Adult and Community Services for mental health issues in older people. She has experience of hospital visiting and PEAT inspections. She also has extensive experience from being involved with the Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forums, particularly for mental health. She is further involved in the Later Life Partnership by Agewell.



Amaro Pereira: Amaro has a general interest in health and social care. He worked for many years as part of the social network in Portugal and has enjoyed working in co-operation with a large diversity of organisations. He is locally based within the Salvation Army and is committed to improving health and social care in Sandwell.

LINK
MAKE IT HAPPEN!



Sandwell LINK's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

Sandwell LINK held its first Extraordinary General Meeting on Tuesday 3rd March 2009 at the Conference Suit, Thomas Street, West Bromwich.

The aim of the EGM was to announce the new Management Group for 2009-2010. The event also provided the opportunity for the previous Interim Management Group to produce their six month report to the community.

The EGM opened with an introduction from Elemay Parkes, Director of Community Regeneration, Black Country Housing Group.

The event was a huge success and the LINK would like to thank everyone who attended.



Guest speaker, Andrea Pope-Smith, Director of Adult Services and Health, informed attendees about how LINK and Social Care will work together in the future.



Following the speech from Andrea Pope-Smith, the Management Group for 2009-2010 was announced and Pam Jones (former Chairman of the Interim Management Group) presented the Interim Management Group's six month report to the public.



The Interim Management Group Report

The Interim Management Group was elected in July 2008 and has been responsible for setting up the LINK and ensuring that all governance and policies are in place. The Interim Management Group produced a six month work programme to ensure that LINK activities were taking place.

The Interim Management Group consulted with the community to find out community concerns. This took place in the form of workshops, drop in events and surveys. For example, at the LINK's launch event on Friday 17th October 2008, workshops were held to find out people's opinions of health and social care services in Sandwell. One of the main issues raised by attendees at the launch event was that there was a lack of information about health and social care services in Sandwell. The Interim Management Group included this

issue in their work programme and as a result co-ordinated a public information and involvement event on Friday 23rd January. The aim of the event was for the public to drop in and talk to health and social care providers in Sandwell and to gain more information on the services available to them.

The Interim Management's work programme included:

- Launching the LINK to the public
- Establishing relationships within health and social care
- Informing the public about how they can access health and social care services by holding a Public Information Event in West Bromwich
- Researching patient experience of Out of Hours through patient surveys
- Researching patient experience of Choose and Book through patient surveys

- Completing local and national consultations
- Contributing to the Health Care Commissions Annual Health Check
- Promoting the LINK to the community

As you can see from the report, Sandwell LINK has managed to gain valuable information in its early stages and this will be continuously developed with the new Management Group. More surveys will be carried out and will provide useful information to help form the LINK's new work programme for 2009 - 2010.

If you would like to have a copy of the Interim Management Group's report, then please contact Black Country Housing Group on: 0121 561 1969 or email your request to: SandwellLINK@bcha.co.uk

What's pants, but could save your life?



Free cervical screening saves the life of one woman in our region every day.

Primary Care Trusts across the West Midlands this month launched the "what's pants, but could save your life?" campaign. The initiative is to encourage women aged 29-64yrs to have a smear test, a test which can be carried out by a practice nurse or any Family Planning Clinic. The campaign continues to focus on the 25-29yr age group. Worryingly less than 7 out of 10 women in this group have been screened in the last 5 years.

Jane Hadley is new in post as a Cancer Screening Outreach Nurse at Sandwell PCT. Employed to raise awareness and promote cervical screening, Jane

states "My job is to go into the community, provide information and encourage individuals to access the screening programme. We are aware there are barriers to screening. My role is to explore and address these issues. I have already started visiting community groups in Sandwell. If anyone knows of suitable groups or events to attend, please contact me."

Jane Hadley can be contacted at the Public Health Department Kingston House 0121-612-1732.

Jane.hadley2@nhs.net

Sandwell LINK needs you!

LINK
MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Sandwell LINK gives you the opportunity to influence Sandwell's health and social care services. Sandwell LINK wants to hear about your experiences of health and social care services and your ideas for improvements or changes. Sandwell LINK can help bring about changes whether they are big or small.

Already Sandwell LINK has been busy spreading the word – and have been making their voice heard in Sandwell. Staff at the Host team have been attending meetings of community groups such as: Seventh Day Adventist Church; Community Health Network and the Carers Forum. However, we are always looking for opportunities to come and talk to people about Sandwell LINK. If you are a member of an organisation or a community group in Sandwell and are interested in hearing more about Sandwell LINK, then please contact the Host team at Black Country Housing Group on: 0121 561 1969 or email: SandwellLINK@bcha.co.uk and we can arrange to come out and talk to your group or organisation.

right care, right here

We are pleased to announce that a decision was taken by the Partnership Board on 23rd March 2009 to formally rename the Towards 2010 Programme to the Right Care, Right Here Programme.

Considerable work has been undertaken to get the new brand right, to ensure that it accurately reflects what we are trying to do through the Programme.



The new Programme brand was launched at a Staff Engagement Event which took place on 3rd April. Over 150 frontline staff attended to give their views on the work of the newly formed Strategic Models of Care Steering (SMOCS) groups. These groups have the responsibility of putting together clinical pathways for how care will work in a new environment after the proposed new hospital is built in Smethwick, due to open in 2015. The views of frontline staff will help provide a background for their work.

Doug Round, Right Care, Right Here Executive Chair said "The Right Care, Right Here Programme has a unique, whole health economy Partnership approach. More services will be provided in community settings, closer to where people live. This will deliver the 'Right Care, Right Here' for local people".

Have YOUR Say and win £50

It's now six months since the first newsletter was distributed by Sandwell LINK. In that newsletter, we asked all of our participants to fill out a survey and invited them to tell us their opinions on health and social care services in Sandwell.

In this issue, we want to find out more about your access and information concerns, and this time the survey is for everyone! Already we have made the survey much more accessible, but if you'd like any help filling it out then please just contact Stephanie

Hardy on 0121 561 1969 or email: SandwellLINK@bcha.co.uk

If you complete the enclosed survey and send it back in the free-post envelope provided, you will be entered into a prize draw to win £50 worth of vouchers!

Please return your questionnaires by the 15th June 2009 to be in with a chance of winning!

The information you give us is going to help shape the projects that Sandwell LINK undertakes over the next year. By now you can see that the responses from our last survey helped to narrow down which issues Sandwell LINK intends to tackle. Now you have the opportunity to narrow things down even further. Tell us where you have the most problems and help us pick what Sandwell LINK need to try and help fix first!

It's all up to you!

Practice-Based Commissioning

Practice-based commissioning (PBC) is a government policy which transfers the powers and responsibilities for buying health care and services from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to local GPs. Under PBC, groups of GPs, i.e. Clusters are given a commissioning budget which they will have the responsibility of using in order to provide services. The PCT then acts as the Cluster's agent to acquire these services. In Sandwell there are three practice based commissioning Clusters: Wednesbury and West Bromwich Cluster; Black Country Commissioning Cluster (BCCN) which covers Rowley Regis and Tipton; and Smethwick and Oldbury PBC Alliance (SOCA).

This shift of commissioning responsibility puts local front line clinicians (e.g. GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals) at the heart of making key decisions about local health care. PBC recognises that these front line clinicians are often in the best position to identify what patients need and translate this into new, redesigned services that best deliver what local people want – better services for their local communities. These commissioning decisions are made alongside local people who are also in the best position to identify patients needs and

influence commissioning. PBC has a commitment to involve patients and the public in decision making and so local people have been involved in consultation about redesigning services; attending decision making groups and PBC events.

Practice based commissioning is also very important at all the stages of the commissioning process. For example, practice based commissioners work closely with PCTs and secondary care clinicians (clinicians in hospitals) to decide clinical outcomes. They also play a key supporting role to PCTs by providing valuable feedback on provider performance.

There are a number of ways that patients will benefit from these changes:

- There will be a greater variety of health services from a greater number of providers
- And they will be offered in local settings that are closer to home and more convenient for patients

The NHS as a whole, and also the public, will also benefit from more efficient use of services.

Watch out for more information about practice based commissioning in Sandwell in future newsletters.

The Annual Health Check

In our last issue we sent out surveys concerning the Annual Health Check; this is the assessment carried out by the health watch dog, the Healthcare Commission on how well health services in England are performing. As a recognised voice of the community, Sandwell LINK is able to give a commentary on how well each Trust in Sandwell is doing.

Thanks to your responses to our surveys and your contributions to our focus groups at different points over the past year, Sandwell LINK was able to give commentaries for Sandwell Primary Care Trust, Sandwell

Mental Health NHS and Social Care Foundation Trust, and Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. The responses were submitted on 7th and 8th April 2009 following review by the Management Group of Sandwell LINK and focused on themes concerning: patient safety, respect, information provision, public involvement, access to services and joint-working both within the health services and with other bodies. The feedback the LINK gave was able to celebrate the achievements of the Trusts as well as identifying areas of continuing difficulty. If you are particularly interested in the content of the

commentaries then please contact the Host on 0121 561 1969 or via SandwellLINK@bcha.co.uk.

In future, the healthcare watch dog will be called the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and it will have a remit beyond healthcare. As of 1st April 2009, the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission have all come together as one body: the CQC. This is good news as it means that healthcare and social care will be examined by the same body going forward.



Sandwell Local Involvement Network Gives You The Opportunity To Influence Your Local Health And Social Care Services.

Anyone can get involved, and it has been set up to make sure that people in your area get the health and social care services they need.

We want to hear about your experiences of health and social services and your ideas for improvements or changes. Your LINK has the power to implement small changes and influence big changes.

To join Sandwell LINK, contact the Host Organisation at Black Country Housing Group on:

tel: 0121 561 1969

email: SandwellLINK@bcha.co.uk

www.SandwellLINK.org

