

Oldham

LINK

MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Local Involvement Network

Oldham LINK

Newsletter Issue 5



“Your voice for health and social care reform in Oldham”

Liberating the NHS Consultation



Standing Conference on Mental Health



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Diabetes Briefing



Welcome from the Host Team

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Oldham LINK Newsletter

The Oldham LINK is an independent network bringing together local people, organisations and groups who want to improve health and social care services in the borough. The LINK will give you the chance to say what you think and should represent the whole community and everyone can be involved, as little or as much as you like. You can be involved by one of the Host Team coming to meet you or your group, by completing surveys, coming along to events or by becoming an active member that would contribute to working groups on specific issues.



**Left-right: Jade Czuba (Outreach and Engagement Worker)
Ursula Hussain (Oldham LINK Manager) Laura Chidgey
(Development Worker)**

Your ideas will start to influence changes to services used either by yourself, your family and friends so that they change for the better. The LINK is able to bring about real change. The more people that get involved the stronger and more influential the LINK becomes. If you feel there is an issue that the LINK should be prioritising, please let us know.

TEAM UPDATE!

We would like to welcome our new team member, John Chapman, who has taken over the Administrator role from Jade Czuba.

"I am really pleased to be working for Oldham LINK and am pleased to be a member of a team of such nice people. I also look forward to helping the people of Oldham get the level of Health and Social Care they deserve."

– John Chapman

Congratulations to Jade also, as she has now been appointed Outreach and Engagement Worker for Oldham LINK. Development Worker Laura Chidgey is expecting a new addition to her family in January, therefore will begin her maternity leave in December. We would like to wish Laura all the best with her the rest of her pregnancy and hope all goes well with the birth of her second child.

Oldham LINK Host Team

Contact Details

If you require this newsletter in another format, would like us to include an article, or want to know more about the LINK please contact us with the details below:

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Liberating the NHS Consultation

Liberating the NHS Consultation

18th October 2010

As many are aware the government is planning major reforms in the NHS. These were set out in a White Paper proposal document which is available through the NHS. However, the document is rather long and may not be that easy to read and understand fully for many people.

As such, the Liberating the NHS Consultation was set up by Oldham LINK so that its members and members of the public could be better informed on these changes and also so that they could have their say about the proposals and respond to the consultation.

The event was hosted by Oldham LINK and included key note speeches from guest speakers. The morning session of the event aimed to further inform people on the changes the Government is planning. These included the plans the Government has to try to put patients first and to take control of their own healthcare through improving healthcare options, and also the new roles of GP's to become the new commissioners of health services. The plans for the Government proposed new consumer champion, HealthWatch, were also presented.



Mark Drury, Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement NHS Oldham, presenting on what patients can expect



Delegates asking questions regarding the White Paper proposals (morning session)



Alan Higgins, Director of Public Health NHS Oldham, presenting the main implications of the White Paper reforms

Liberating the NHS Consultation



LINK members and workshop participants finding ways forward to work together with GP Consortia to influence commissioning decisions within the proposed arrangements.

Afternoon Group Discussions

The afternoon session included a group discussion workshop, with the delegates being separated into four groups with a facilitator and a note taker. The focus was on HealthWatch, with key questions being put forward to the delegates for discussion. These included HealthWatch's ability to fulfil its proposed functions; how it will support people who may not have capacity to make choices about their care; how it should relate to other community groups; how it will support the needs of vulnerable people and, also, how HealthWatch will be regulated.



Participants considering complaints advocacy, facilitated by LINK Development Worker, Laura Chidgey and Nayan Joshi, Voluntary Action Oldham (LINK partner organisation & Member).

Key Outcomes

Each of the four discussion groups included at least one note taker recording minutes of the proceedings.

The discussions were often passionate and many different issues were raised by the delegates. Key issues included the staffing of HealthWatch, complaints processes, signposting and other promotion, the relationship between HealthWatch and GP consortia and many other issues also.

The event was a strong success and was well attended; feedback from the delegates was also good. The Department of Health has now received the final report containing the delegates' concerns and will now be in the process of review and putting it forward to the upcoming Health Bill.

A copy of the report can be found at www.oldhamlink.org.uk, or by telephoning Oldham LINK on 0161 622 5700.

Standing Conference on Mental Health



Gail Richards speaking about NHS changes and mental health in Oldham

The Standing Conference for Mental Health took place on 1st October. The event was hosted by Oldham LINK and was supported by Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind.

The event had several objectives; firstly to introduce what the upcoming NHS changes mean for mental health in Oldham; to gather views on GP services and mental health services in Oldham and also to provide an update on the commissioning practices in Oldham, which the Standing Conference has had influence on. These were covered in the morning session of the event.

Several guest speakers attended the event, including Gail Richards (Chief Executive NHS Oldham, left), Dr Keith Jefferey (GP and member Commissioning for Oldham Group), and Sian Wimbury (Senior Project Manager, Mental Health, NHS Oldham).



The morning session included question and answer sessions with both Gail Richards and Dr Keith Jefferey, giving the audience the opportunity to ask about several topics relating to mental health and the upcoming changes. Their responses were recorded in the form of minutes and have been placed into a report which will be sent to NHS Oldham.

The afternoon session involved a discussion workshop which aimed to get the views of the delegates; who were service users, carers and members of the public. The delegates were split into three groups.

The main areas for discussion were;

- Top Tips for GPs relating to mental health patients
- Key Issues – What is on your mind right now?

These discussion topics brought up many issues by the groups, which were recorded by note takers and also have been placed into the report. A practical tool for GP's will also be produced from this work.

The day also included a different way for people to express their views in the form of a traffic light game, where people could express their views by placing card statements in either a green box (agree), an amber box (not sure) or a red box (disagree).

The conference was a success and was well attended. The report produced from the conference is a major way for us to influence service change that will reflect the needs of the people of Oldham.



Delegates in the Q&A session

Victoria Breast Unit Extension at The Royal Oldham Hospital

PATIENTS, staff and local fundraisers are celebrating after construction work to build a £160,000 conservatory extension to the Victoria Breast Unit at The Royal Oldham Hospital commenced this week.

The Victoria Breast Unit opened in May 2007 and provides a one-stop diagnostic service for patients with breast problems and continued care for patients with breast cancer.

The new extension will help create more space in the waiting area and improve the facilities, making the patient's experience in the unit more comfortable.

The local charity, Link4Pink, was set-up in 2007 to raise money to build the extension. In September last year (2009), the charity announced it had raised over £112,000 in just 13 months almost doubling its original target of £60,000 thanks to the concerted efforts of local fundraisers and the warm generosity of thousands of people. To date, the Link4Pink Appeal has raised £151,000.

Miss Maria Bramley, consultant oncoplastic breast surgeon at The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust which runs The Royal Oldham Hospital, said:

"Attending the unit can be an anxious time for patients and their relatives and it is important that we do all we can to make their visit as comfortable as possible. Patients undergoing treatment or awaiting results may be at the hospital all day and will therefore welcome the relaxing environment that the new conservatory will provide. It is wonderful that we are at the stage of being able to get this project off the ground. This is a credit to the hard work of all our fundraisers and the generosity of the public."



The Pennine Acute Hospitals

NHS Trust

Rita Bottomley, Chair of the Link4Pink appeal committee, added:

"I am delighted to see the dream of the breast consultants at Oldham coming to fruition. I would like to thank the committee ladies for their hard work in helping us to get to the building phase. Of course we could not have done this without all the wonderful people in Oldham and Rochdale who have raised money on our behalf. Donations both big and small are equally appreciated and I thank everybody from the bottom of my heart. "We need a further £9,000 and I know that people will continue raising money on our behalf until the job is complete. Link4Pink will continue as the fundraising arm of the Victoria Breast Care Unit when the committee will be raising money to purchase medical equipment and patient amenities so watch this space!"

A number of local community organisations and individuals have been instrumental in fundraising for the Link4Pink Appeal. These include: Mr Ian McIntosh, retired consultant breast surgeon, Miss Maria Bramley, Consultant Breast Surgeon and Tracy Knuckey, Breast Care P.A of The Royal Oldham Hospital, The Saddleworth Ladies committee, The Broadway Stitchers, Oldham Athletic AFC, Oldham Rugby League Football Club, Oldham Rotary, Phil Barker and the 'Beerstalkers', Alan Taylor and staff and visitors at The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to name but a few.

A separate donation of £13,000 from the Woman of Oldham Committee will be used for landscaping. Jan Bolton, fundraising manager at Pennine Acute Trust, said: "The extension will be a welcome addition to the £1.3m conversion of the hospital's Victoria Suite. This appeal has been a tireless and genuinely collective community effort from so many individuals and local organisations. We are truly grateful to all the appeal committee and donors; we can't wait to begin building this fantastic extension."

Right to Control

The Office for Disability Issues wants to test how the following funded areas of support can work together:

Supporting People

Disabled Facilities Grant

Work Choice

Independent Living Fund

Access to Work

Adult Social Care

Their aim is to ensure that there is less bureaucracy, so that disabled people can have greater choice, control and independence over their own lives. The Right to Control is being tested in 8 'trailblazer' (pilot) sites in England. Five Greater Manchester councils are working with Job Centre Plus, Access to Work, Independent Living Fund, Breakthrough UK and Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People. Oldham LINK has been working as part of this team to ensure that the following are co-produced, with disabled people:

A single assessment system

A 'no wrong door' approach

Multiple access point for services

Independent advocacy and peer support

The commissioning of a Greater Manchester Centre for Independent Living

Disabled people will be able to access Right to Control in the form of a cash payment, a service or a combination of both. The Right to Control will go live in March 2011. It will be available to new adult customers. However, existing customers whose circumstances change significantly may also qualify.

We will keep you up to date with developments and local events as the launch date approaches.

Diabetes Briefing

In August the Oldham LINK supported NHS Oldham in the organisation of a briefing for those with an interest in diabetes services within the Oldham borough. The session was held at the Link Centre and around 50 people attended.

The main aim of the session was to inform those who attended of the future changes to services due to the restructuring of how the NHS will operate in future. This has been very controversial since the coalition

government revealed its plans to restructure in order to improve outcome and reduce bureaucracy.

The main issues brought up by NHS Oldham were that changes in the operation of the NHS will not dramatically affect services and that patients should be reassured that their care will not be compromised. This session will be repeated later in the year to broaden participation.

Hospital Licensing

New publication informs patients and families what standards to expect from the regulation of their NHS hospital

Following the introduction of a new law, all NHS hospitals in England must now be licensed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). To be licensed hospitals must show that they are meeting new essential standards of quality and safety. CQC continuously monitors them to make sure standards are upheld or improvement action is taken. Now CQC has published a leaflet which informs patients, their carers and families, what they can expect from the essential standards. The leaflet also explains how important it is that patients or their carers tell the regulator about their experiences, both

good and bad, to help CQC make the right decisions. Called '*What standards to expect from the regulation of your NHS hospital*' the leaflet can be read or downloaded from the CQC website at www.cqc.org.uk

At the same time the CQC website publishes an up-to-date directory of all licensed NHS hospitals. You can now look up the current status of any NHS hospital trust in England.

Upcoming Plans

November/December

- Members update
- Representatives training
- Stalls in the Link Centre and the Integrated Care Centre
- Right to Control Events in Oldham