



News

1 Medway LINK Participant Induction Events

The first induction event is planned for Medway LINK participants and places are still available. Further information on the content of the day will be available shortly; however, the role and responsibilities of the LINK and participants will be covered during the sessions. If you would like to book a place at this event, please contact the administrator shown below, advising of any special or dietary requirements you may have.

Thursday, 12 March 2009
Princes Hall, Corn Exchange, Rochester, ME1 1LS
10.00am – 3.30pm
Kirsty – 07976 594541 / 01303 297050

2. Relocation of pharmacy approved - Gillingham

The pharmacy run by Euro Pharmacy Ltd at 17 Duncan Road, Gillingham, ME7 4LA is to relocate to the proposed new Health Centre in Balmoral Gardens, Gillingham, ME7 4PN.

For further information contact Linda Gibbs, Kent Primary Care Agency, 11 Station Road, Maidstone, ME17 1QH, email linda.gibbs@kpcn.nhs.uk or telephone 01622 655134.

3. Are we making the most of our community hospitals in Kent and Medway?

In the "Talkback" section of our website a LINK participant asks whether enough use is being made of our local community hospitals. For those of you with internet access you can take part in this discussion by accessing the "Talkback" section as follows:

<http://www.themedwaylink.co.uk/index.php?q=9>

Alternatively, let us have your views by whichever way you wish, ie phone, mail or SMS text. Our contact details are at the end of the Bulletin. We will close the discussion on the 27 February 2009 and forward the results to the relevant Primary Care Trust and to the Strategic Health Authority. The results will also be reported in subsequent Bulletins and on the website.

For further information contact Jane Williamson, The Medway LINK, Kent & Medway Networks Ltd, Avenue Business Centre, 17 New Road Avenue, Chatham, ME4 6BA, email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01634 821135 / 07968 056285.



4. Home care survey

Medway Council is seeking the views of users of the Home Care Services they receive -1800 in all. The aim is to find out how happy people are with the service they are receiving, what improvements need to be made and what other services may be needed in the future.

The LINK will publish the results of this survey when the results are known.

For further information contact Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR, telephone 01634 306000, fax 01634 332756, Minicom 01634 333111. email customer.first@medway.gov.uk or via the website <http://www.medway.gov.uk/index/socialcare/homecare.htm>

5. Your chance to comment on health care standards

Every year the body that regulates and inspects the NHS, the Healthcare Commission, invites our local NHS organisations to declare whether they have met certain core national standards, around such things as patient safety, hygiene and cleanliness, patient care, etc. This is a self declaration and only, approximately, 20% of such NHS bodies get a visit to check these out. However, the local community can have their say through the LINK. If you belong to a local group that may have some evidence of good practice or where services could be improved and would like to work with the LINK on this please contact us via the web site:

<http://www.themedwaylink.co.uk/index.php?q=17>

Alternatively individuals and groups can go straight to our evidence collecting "tool" to get their views heard at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=AkE3hjXquRLtxF_2fKOfNQ2Q_3d_3d

For further information contact Jane Williamson, The Medway LINK, Kent & Medway Networks Ltd, Avenue Business Centre, 17 New Road Avenue, Chatham, ME4 6BA, email info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01634 821135 / 07968 056285.

6. Mental health pledges being tested

A regional consultation conducted last year entitled "Healthier People, Excellent Care" has resulted in changes to the recommendations relating to mental health services. In view of this, NHS South East Coast is going out again to seek / test people's views on the revised pledges. Views are sought by Monday, 16 February on the following pledges given to those in need of mental health services:

- There will be effective support for people with urgent mental health needs.



- There will be access to psychological therapies in primary and secondary care in line with best practice.
- We will campaign with our partners to overcome discrimination against people with mental health problems and take action to reduce inequalities and social exclusion.
- We will work with the NHS and employers to maintain employment for those with mental health problems.
- Those who need to return to work will be rehabilitated so that they can do so at the earliest opportunity.
- There is no health without mental health. Therefore, we will improve life expectancy year on year of those with severe mental illness. We will also get better at recognising the mental health needs of people who are being treated for physical conditions.

We recognise that time is short, but, if you have any comments you would like us to convey to NHS South East Coast, don't be daunted, let us have your views via our contact address: The Medway LINK, Kent & Medway Networks, Freepost NAT 17761, Folkestone, CT19 4BR. or via our contact page at: <http://www.themedwaylink.co.uk/index.php?q=17>

Events

1. 'Black is Beautiful': an event to celebrate women of colour

The Medway Local Involvement (LINK) and Medway Ethnic Minority Forum are holding an event to celebrate women of colour. The event will take place on Saturday, 28 February 2009 at the Sunlight Centre, 105 Richmond Road, Gillingham, ME7 1LX from 4.00pm until 7.00pm. There will be panel discussions on fashion and health and it is aimed at raising awareness of issues that affect women from African and Caribbean backgrounds. There will be beauty product sampling, a guest musical soul artist, free buffet, free entry and much more.

For more information contact Michael Kosmas, Medway Ethnic Minority Forum, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR, email memf outreach@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01634 333107.

2. Eastern European Women's Day

The Medway Local Involvement Network (LINK) and Medway Ethnic Minority Forum are



holding an event to celebrate Eastern European Women's Day. The event will take place on Saturday, 7 March 2009 at Christchurch, Luton Road, Chatham, ME4 5BT from 3.00pm until 6.00pm. There will be panel discussions on health and information on services available in Medway for women and children, including Sure Start and Medway Council's Children's Services. The event is also aimed at bringing together Eastern European families living in Medway. There will be many activities, including face painting for the children, traditional music and traditional food.

For more information contact Lenka Wyatt, Medway Ethnic Minority Forum, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR, email memforum@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01634 333107.

3. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

The HOSC will be meeting on Friday, 20 March 2009 at 10.00am at the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

The Committee at this meeting will be concentrating on core standards in the NHS relating to the "hygiene code". It will receive evidence from the Medway NHS Foundation Trust, the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust and South East Coast Ambulance Service. There will also be a presentation by the Kent LINK on their findings on the Annual Health check.

For further information contact Paul Wickenden on 01622 694486 or visit the website: <http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.asp?CId=112&MId=1846&Ver=4>

4. 'Be Yourself' - South East Asian Women's Day

The Medway Local Involvement Network (LINK) and Medway Ethnic Minority Forum are holding an event whereby women from South East Asian backgrounds can meet and discuss various matters with health professionals. The event will take place on Saturday, 21 March 2009 at New Brompton College, Marlborough Road, Gillingham, ME7 5HT from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. This is a women only event.

For more information contact Peenal, Kamilla or Rupel at the Medway Ethnic Minority Forum, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR, email memforum@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01634 333107.

5. Stroke Event

An event will be held on Tuesday, 31 March 2009 from 9.30am to 4.00pm at the Marriott

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Tudor Park Hotel and Country Club, Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 4NQ.

This event is open to all those involved in stroke including clinicians, patients, carers and charitable organisations such as the Stroke Association. The day will offer an opportunity to hear about new national and local developments in stroke care as well as a chance to network. A variety of workshops will be held in the afternoon. The event is funded by the Stroke Network and is free to delegates.

For further details and to book a place contact: Ann Vincent, Stroke Network, Preston Hall, London Road, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7NJ, telephone 01622 713065 (direct line), email ann.vincent@kentmedway.nhs.uk or visit the website: www.kentcvn.nhs.uk

Consultations

1. Come forward with your views on Access to NHS Dentistry

Summary: This is an independent probe into variations in access to NHS Dentistry, and is calling for people to come forward with thoughts and questions about this issue. The aim is to identify how the government and local NHS can work together to increase access to NHS dentists and improve quality. Suggest ways of reducing inequalities in oral health and to consider reform of funding allocation and workforce planning. Your contribution is needed!

Further information contact: Charlotte Santry, Health Service Journal, Tower Publishing Services, Tower House, Sovereign Park Market, Harborough, LE16 9EF, telephone 020-7728-3760, email Dentistry.review@dh.gsi.gov.uk or visit the website:

www.hsj.co.uk/news/2009

Consultation ends: 28 February 2009

Contact Information

The Medway LINK may be contacted via the Host Organisation as below:

KMN, Avenue Business Centre, 17 New Road Avenue, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6BA.

Email: info@kmn-ltd.co.uk

Tel: 01634 821135

SMS Text: 07976 594541

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm (Answerphone available out of office hours)