

Volume 1, Issue 1 February 2010

## BULLETIN

### Consultation Event: 26th January 2010

A successful consultation event was held at Yarnfield Park, nr. Stone on Tuesday 26th January 2010. The event was attended by over 100 people from the voluntary and community sector, statutory and regulatory bodies and individuals. Presentations on various LINK models operating successfully elsewhere in the country were delivered by representatives from Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire LINK.

Those attending were able to ask questions of the presenters and have group discussions and

feedback their views on the models.

A market place was also well attended by organisations including the Stroke Association, the Alzheimers Society, South Staffs Carers Association, Age Concern, Monthly Alzheimers Support Evening (MASE) and NHS North Staffordshire to enable them to showcase their current activities and to offer advice and information.

Participants were also asked to give their views on pressing priorities and specific issues



in respect of the workplan themes: dementia, stroke and acute services as well as highlight other themes and issues to help inform the future workplan of the LINK.

Training opportunities were also available for those attending to sign up for.

### Support Team Workplan February—May 2010

The Support Team workplan has now been developed and is available to view and download on the LINK website at [www.staffordshirelink.org.uk](http://www.staffordshirelink.org.uk) The workplan sets out the

activities that the support team will be undertaking in respect of workplan projects, communications strategy, community engagement activities, community engagement with stakeholders, project re-

search work, the LINK structure consultation and development processes and training opportunities.



#### Inside this issue:

Mental Health Services—tell us your views	2
Consultations—MHRA	2
CQC introducing new quality system	2
Update on workplan projects	3
Educational and training sessions	3
Contact us	4
Competition	4

#### Special points of interest:

- LINK Support Team workplan
- Training opportunities available
- Appeal for project group participants
- Dates for your diary
- Catch us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter—coming soon....



## Consultations

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency are currently thinking about making information about medicines available online. This will be a big decision for them and they really want your views—is it a good idea? What difference, if any, would such a resource make to you? How would you use a resource like this?

The agency are running an online discussion and this can be accessed at

[www.medinfodiscussion.org](http://www.medinfodiscussion.org)

The MHRA is the government agency responsible for ensuring medicines and medical devices work and are acceptably safe.

The discussion focuses on patient information leaflets and Summaries of Product Characteristics (SPCs) and it is their proposal to put a definitive database of these online. You can read, rate and add ideas to the discussion until 8th March 2010. To find out more, read others' ideas and add your own views visit their website.



"CQC—Care Quality Commission—an independent body set up by government to make sure people of England get better health and adult social care"

## CQC introducing new system of regulation

Staffordshire patients and 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 social care services in England.

The (CQC), the new independent regulator of health and adult social care, will license services if they meet essential standards and 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 to go [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

## Please tell us your concerns on mental health

Many participants at the consultation event recorded their pressing priorities and specific issues and a common theme was mental health services. Comments included:

Modernisation of day services (mental health)

Mental health consultation and restructure

Personalisation and mental health

Mental health services

New horizons document will mean massive changes in the provision of mental health services. LINK needs to be involved.

We really need to hear from you with your views as a service user, relative or carer of a service user so that we can gather as much information as possible. Please contact the LINK Support Team on 01785 887990 to request a survey form or visit our website at [www.staffordshirelink.org](http://www.staffordshirelink.org) to complete a form online.



## Update on workplan projects

**Dementia Services:** A tender for a small research project to identify key issues in respect of dementia services has been issued with a deadline for submissions to be received by 26th February 2010. Contract to be awarded by 5th March 2010 and research to be completed by mid-April 2010. Research outcomes will then be used to inform the workplan project design by a newly convened project group.

**Acute Services:** A project group will be convened by mid-March 2010 and undertake surveys and research as well as conducting a focus group problem-tree exercise to identify priority issues to be progressed and enable recommendations to be made. **If you are interested in joining a project or focus group, please contact the support team on 01785 887990.**

**Stroke Services:** A tender for a small research project to identify key issues in respect of stroke services has been issued with a deadline for submissions to be received by 26th February 2010. Contract to be awarded by 5th March 2010 and research to be completed by mid-April 2010. Research outcomes will then be used to inform the workplan project design by a newly convened project group.

## Training Opportunities available

Several training opportunities are now available:

Introduction to LINKs—What's in it for me? 15th March 2010

Enter and view authorised visitor training. 14th April 2010

Both training sessions are a full day and the venue will be confirmed once we know the numbers attending.

If you would like to book a place on any of the listed training courses or would like to register your interest in future training opportunities, please contact the LINK Support Team on

Tel: 01785 887990.

**"Authorised visitor—fully trained person who, as part of a LINK workplan project, can visit, assess and produce a report on publicly funded health and adult social care services"**

## Training Opportunities from North Staffs PCT

North Staffs PCT (provider arm) are working on a project to develop and provide support and training opportunities for people involved in caring for others with health and social care needs and more particularly for those with long term conditions.

The project is focusing on the development of people who have direct contact and influence with patients who have high levels of health and social care needs and is seeking to provide a unique joint package of support and training opportunities which will:

- Enable sharing of expertise between health and social care staff, patients and their carers;
- Ensure that carers are supported in the wider social care system.

It will involve some training and educational sessions as well as offering a network of support, advice and information. If you are a carer or help to look after someone with a long term condition or social care needs and would be interested in getting involved with this project or would like to contribute your views as to what would help you in your role as a carer, please contact the LINK Support Team on 01785 887990.

## Please tell us what you think and win a prize!

We are very keen to hear your views on the Staffordshire LI Nk Bulletin and what information and news you would like it to contain in the future. We are also seeking any ideas you may have to make further Bulletins more user friendly, accessible and interesting. You may even have ideas on what the Bulletin should be called. There is a prize for the most innovative idea that can be incorporated.

Please contact the support team either by phone on 01785 887990 to request a freepost envelope to submit your ideas in writing or email your ideas to us at

[enquiries@staffordshirelink.staffs.com](mailto:enquiries@staffordshirelink.staffs.com)

The closing date for ideas and suggestions is 19th March 2010

## Facebook and Twitter coming soon ...

We will soon be using Facebook and Twitter on the Staffordshire LI Nk website so that you can find out more about events, surveys, projects and activities and follow the progress that is being made by Staffordshire LI Nk.

follow us on:

twitter

flickr

YouTube

facebook

Facebook is a social networking service. A social network service focuses on building and reflecting of social networks or social relations among people, e.g., who share interests and/or activities

## Contact Staffordshire LI Nk at:

Unit 30 Staffordshire University Business Village

Dyson Way

Staffordshire Technology Park

Stafford ST18 0TW

Tel: 01785 887990 (and answerphone)

Email: [enquiries@staffordshirelink.staffs.com](mailto:enquiries@staffordshirelink.staffs.com)

Fax: 01785 887820

Freepost available

Find us on the web at

[www.staffordshirelink.org.uk](http://www.staffordshirelink.org.uk)