

Update on LINK activity for 15/10/2009

1. The availability of dental services within the NHS. (Primary Care)

LINK is looking at the availability of and access to NHS dental treatment in Cornwall. LINK wants to find out whether the situation is improving.

The next Dental Task Group meeting will be the joint meeting between the PCT and LINK to discuss issues and the national dental review and how it can be implemented in Cornwall. This will be the 26th Nov 10:30-12:30 at Red Cross House, Truro.

The training for the Dental Quality Visits held on the 10th September was a great success with everyone attending feeling very enthused about the input that the LINK participants can have in the visits. The training discussed the checklist used by the PCT in the visits, and LINK participants were able to comment and add areas where they felt relevant. A further training afternoon has been arranged for the 26th Nov, 13:00-15:00, at the Knowledge Spa, Treliske, Truro (expenses will be covered by the PCT) where the checklist for the visits will be finalised. The visits are due to commence in December.

NEXT DATE: 26th Nov 10:30-12:30 Red Cross House, Truro - Dental Task Group.
26th Nov 1-3pm Red Cross House, Truro - Dental Quality Visits Training.

2. The provision of out of hours support for people with mental health problems. (Independent Living and Wellbeing)

LINK is looking at where someone goes if they need support with Mental Health problems outside of normal working hours. There is a concern that the current out of hours provision in Cornwall is under resourced, especially during the night.

The Mental Health Task Group has published the Mental Health Out of Hours: Have Your Say report. The report has been submitted to the Deputy Director of Partnership Commissioning, the Joint Commissioning Manager for Mental Health and Wellbeing, the Expert Reference Group and the Transforming Community Services Team. The report produced practical recommendations and everyone involved felt very positive about the outcomes. Responses are awaited from the Primary Care Trust and will be reviewed in a Review Meeting on the 24th November, 12:00-14:00, Red Cross, Truro, where the next steps for LINK on the issue will also be discussed, including how to publicise the outcomes and impact of the report. Feedback so far has been encouraging. The report has also been submitted to the Care Quality Commission Mental Health Strategy Consultation and the Department of Health's New Horizons Consultation.

NEXT DATE: 24th Nov 12-2pm, Red Cross House, Truro - Review Meeting of Responses to Mental Health Out of Hours Report

3. The process of being discharged from hospital. (Social Issues, Hospital Care, and Primary Care)

What gaps exist when someone is discharged from hospital and requires social care support in the community.

The Hospital Discharge Task Group Workshop will be on the 6th November, 10:00-15:00 at Red Cross House, Truro. Representatives from the Primary Care Trust, the Department of Adult Care and Support and the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trusts have confirmed their attendance and in the office we are working to get a representative along from Cornwall Partnership Trust. Each agency will give a short presentation on the current processes of hospital discharge they are involved in. In the afternoon the issues LINK has heard will be discussed with the agencies to look at ways forward towards the aim of the Task Group of a holistic, patient lead, accountable process of hospital discharge in which carers and patient's needs are listened to in appropriate assessments and where the standard is the same through out the county. There has also been a lot of interest in this Task Group from LINK participants and people new to LINK.

NEXT DATE: 6th Nov 10am-3pm Red Cross House, Truro – Hospital Discharge Multi Agency Workshop

4. Transport. (Inclusion – Roy Lee specialising)

LINK is currently beginning to work with the Primary Care Trust and Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust around provision of patient transport. When this has been formalised all the issues that LINK has heard around transport will be fed in.