

Taking Action

on Hospital Discharge

The Hospital Discharge Working Group met for the first time on the 7 September. Four participants met with the LINK's Vice Chair, Robert Brown, to plan how to investigate problems which were brought to the attention of the Link at the open meeting in July.

We have asked for all health Trusts to send us their hospital discharge policies. We will review these and decide how to take the issues raised forward using the powers of our LINK.

If you are interested in joining this working group please come to our next meeting on the 5 October at the BRIGHTHELM CENTRE, North Road.



LINK Elections Underway

The LINK elections are now well underway with eight candidates standing for six seats on the LINK Steering Group. Ballot papers are currently being sent out and voting closes on 21 October.

The candidates are:

- Anthony Sklar
- Avril Fuller
- Henry Chapman
- Ian Hide
- John Wood
- Mick Lister
- Peter Southgate
- Robert Brown

Full statements written by each of the candidates are included with the ballot paper

Don't Forget!
Votes need to be cast by
5pm,
Wednesday 21 October

Your Local Involvement Network (LINK) 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 services they need.

Brighton & Hove Local Involvement Network (LINK), PO Box 5216, Brighton, BN50 9XZ
Telephone 01273 234782; email link@bhlink.org or visit www.bhlink.org

More LINK news

Fair and equal access to services

Brighton & Hove residents are invited to give their views on vital health and council services in a drive to ensure fair and equal access for all.

NHS Brighton and Hove, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust, and Brighton and Hove City Council want to hear views from all sections of the community this month.

Each organisation has to produce a Single Equality Scheme to ensure services meet equality laws and local needs. As

part of this the council and its partners will be consulting on proposed new equality schemes.

These include knowing about service users and identifying those who might face barriers, making sure members of diverse groups are able to access services and having a workforce that reflects the city.

Councillor Dee Simson, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, said: "We want to hear from residents about how we deliver services with our partners so that

we can further ensure we include all members of our diverse community and tackle discrimination."

The SES will be based around six equality strands - ethnicity, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religion and belief. It will also include community cohesion. The scheme will run from 2010-2012.

Full details can be seen at <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1212835>

Resident's chance to shape adult mental health care next five years.

NHS Brighton and Hove has just published a paper setting out its vision of what's needed, but wants local people's views and ideas before finally deciding what services to buy on their behalf. In the paper, NHS Brighton and Hove says it thinks that its three top priorities for adult services should be:

- helping people stay mentally healthy;
- identifying and acting on likely problems at an early stage; and
- providing high quality treatment and care when it is needed

Local residents are invited to look at the paper on the NHS Brighton and Hove website <http://www.brightonandhove.nhs.uk/mentalhealth> and complete a short survey before 21 October. You can request a hard copy of the paper by phoning 01273 545441

<http://www.brightonandhove.nhs.uk/mentalhealth>

Revised Guidance to Doctors

You are invited to give your views on three pieces of draft supplementary guidance for doctors. These are:

- a. Good practice in research
- b. Consent to research
- c. Making and using visual and audio recordings of patients.

These new pieces of guidance will update existing publications: **Research: the role and responsibility of doctors (2002)** and **Making and using visual and audio recordings of patients (2002)**.

You can read the drafts of the guidance and take part in the consultation online at <http://tinyurl.com/y8a3mmu>

If you would like any further information or paper copies, these are available on from Jane O'Brien, Assistant Director, Standards and Fitness to Practise on 020 7189 5404 or by email at standards.consult@gmc-uk.org

National News

Shaping the Future of Care. The Government Green Paper on Social Care

The Government has published Shaping the Future of Care Together, beginning the first ever national debate on the reform of adult care and support in England - the Big Care Debate.

The document spells out a vision for a National Care Service, the options for reform, and how the new system could be organised and paid for. The Government is inviting everybody to comment on the reform options and say which ones they would like to see adopted.

Click on the links below to download the consultation paper and various supporting documents and alternative versions.

<http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk>

<http://www.ournhs.nhs.uk/?p=1399about:Tabs> (Andy Burnham, the Health Minister's launch speech)

<http://tinyurl.com/yat3tz6> (Action for Blind People's website)

The Big Care Debate runs until 13th November.

Benefits and Care

Benefits and Care, an online service to help benefit and allowance claimants, offers advice on their website at [http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk/disability-living-allowance-\(dla\)](http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk/disability-living-allowance-(dla)).

They say:



Time is running out to save disability living allowance and attendance allowance from being axed. A government green paper has revealed plans to stop paying disability benefits and hand the cash over to social services instead.

The consultation period for the green paper ends on 13 November. If there has been no significant outcry against the plans by then, it seems very likely that whichever party is in power after the next election will seize this opportunity to cut public spending by over a billion pounds a year. Although the actual changes may take years to be brought in, it is what happens between now and November 13th that is likely to seal the fate of disability benefits.

"It's time to make your voice heard: sign up for the No More Benefits Cuts campaign now.



And according to The Royal Association for the Blind, they say,

"In July 2009 the Government published a social care Green Paper, Shaping the future of care together to address the challenge of growing demands on England's social care system. This paper has its pluses and minuses and RNIB will be submitting a full response in due course.

"At this stage we already know that one very big minus is the proposal that Attendance Allowance (AA) should be abolished and the money used to help plug the gap in funding for social care."

Personalisation and Transforming Adult Social Care



Personalisation forms the cornerstone of the current stage of public service reform and modernisation. In essence, it means that services are designed and delivered from the starting point of individuals' needs and wishes, instead of individuals having to fit into existing services. It's not a new idea, having been championed for a long time by some service user groups and organisations. Neither is the practice of delivering more individualised services an entirely new thing. The system of Direct Payments and Independent Living Fund payments have already enabled some service users to take greater control of their lives.

What is new, however, is that personalisation forms the central plank of government policy on public service delivery and has received an unprecedented level of cross departmental sign up.



Pauline Kimantas, NAVCA's Local and Procurement Manager

Seven requirements and expectations for modernising Adult Social Care are set out in the Department of Health White Paper 'Our Health Our Care Our Say', published in 2006.

It forms part of the Putting People First Vision, namely; improved health and emotional well being, improved quality of life, making a positive contribution, increased choice and control, freedom from discrimination and harassment, economic well-being & maintaining dignity and respect.

These changes are being overseen at Brighton & Hove City Council by the Personalisation Board (Adult Social Care & Housing) The Board consists of senior managers including the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing and key Council Members.

This board will oversee the programme of change in Adult Social Care, Housing and associated areas. Priorities include, Better Use of Public Money and Reducing Inequality by Increasing Opportunity. The board will ensure delivery of the programme in line with seven objectives, namely:

1. Providing Homes to meet the needs of the city.
2. Improve housing quality in the City to ensure all have access to decent homes.
3. Deliver high quality and personalised services.
4. Deliver Value for Money services.
5. Work in partnership to improve the commissioning and provision of services.
6. Reduce inequality.
7. Deliver excellent customer services.

To date a number of key milestones have been achieved. The intention is to produce Personalisation and Communication strategies which will provide the framework for future years. This will require further consultation with staff, stakeholders and external partners and organisations.

The opportunity for self-directed support must be offered to all service users by 2010 and there are specific targets that the directorate must reach before then. Challenging targets for 2009/10 for people receiving Self Directed Support are to be achieved by joint working with our partners in Brighton & Hove.

For further information, please contact Jessica Harper, Project Support Manager, Performance & Development Team, telephone (01273) 295245 or email Jessica.Harper@brighton-hove.gov.uk

In Control, a project born in 2003, was set up to find a new way of organising the social care system. It has developed into an independent charity committed to promoting active citizenship, community development and the reform of the welfare state. Its website provides technical information, a newsletter and other documents which set out their thinking.

www.incontrol.org.uk

And in local news...



Men Get Eating Disorders Too Petition

According to Sam Thomas, Project Leader at Men Get Eating Disorders Too,

"Studies suggest that between 10 and 25 per cent of people with eating disorders are male. However, it is widely speculated that these figures could be much higher, as many men do not feel they are able to get help for their eating disorder.

"We believe that part of the reason for this is due to the lack of awareness of eating disorders in men from doctors and other health practitioners.

Numerous male sufferers have reported getting a diagnosis for their eating disorder a struggle and their symptoms dismissed probably because eating disorders are commonly seen as female problems.

"In order to encourage better service provision for men with eating disorders we have set up a petition on the Number 10 website to ensure men with eating disorders are given the same opportunities for treatment and care as female sufferers."

To sign the petition, go to <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/men-eds>.

This petition is headed up by 'Men Eating Disorders Too', a web and publicity campaign that aims to raise awareness of eating disorders in men so they can get the help they need.

See www.mengetedstoo.co.uk or call Sam on 07906 227129



Are you disabled and in need of low cost counselling?

The Brighton and Hove Federation of Disabled People offer low cost, confidential, independent and accessible counselling for disabled people, their families, friends and carers.

To apply telephone (01273) 208 934 or email bhfederation@bhfederation.org.uk. When you apply for counselling you will be invited to attend a FREE 50 minute assessment session with a qualified, experienced and BACP accredited supervisor.

The counselling rooms are based at: 3 Rutland Gardens, Hove BN3 5PA, all counselling is done in-house during the working week (Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm)

Counselling can provide an opportunity to review situations, feelings and choices. It can help someone who may need change in life, or who has to cope with unwanted change or crisis. In these and many other situations the chance to meet with a counsellor can be useful and supportive.

What does it mean?

A glossary of health and social care terms

Advocate	a person who supports someone and can act on their behalf
Clinical	of, or for, the treatment of patients
Clinical governance	the organisational framework through which and NHS body is accountable for ensuring and improving patient safety & high standards of care
Health provider	an organisation which offers services to improve people's health
Intermediate care	alternative to general hospital admission for treatment. Also provided to allow patients to be safely discharged from hospital & complete their recovery at home or other suitable place, such as a community hospital or nursing home
Joint commissioning	usually refers to NHS and social services working together to agree spending plans to get the best service for those who use their services, such as mental health service users, physically disabled people, older people
LINK Action Group	a small group of people who meet to discuss issues and agree actions on a defined topic
LINK Steering group	the group of 15 elected people who lead and coordinate the activities of the LINK (Local Involvement Network)
NHS	National Health Service
NHS Trust	could either be a commissioner or a provider trust. Primary care trusts are often both commissioners & providers
PALs	Patient Advice Liaison Service – an in house service providing information & help to NHS patients
Primary care	care provided by GP's and the team who work with them in their surgeries, health centres & by dentists, pharmacists & opticians
Primary Care Trust (PCT)	the main commissioning body in the NHS. PCT's have replaced health authorities. The PCT in Brighton & Hove is now called NHS Brighton and Hove
Providers	Hospital Trusts, GP's voluntary organisations & sometimes private institutions who provide health care according to their contract with the PCT
Social care provider	an organisation which offers services to help support people
Providers in Brighton and Hove	
Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC)	provides Social Care Services (commonly known as Social Services) to protect, care for and support vulnerable people to enable them to live as full and independent lives as possible.
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals (BSUH)	regional teaching hospital ; provides general and specialist acute hospital services working as one teaching hospital across two sites, Royal Sussex County Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital
Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT)	brings together education, health and social care for all 0-19-year-olds (and up to 25 years for those with special needs)
South Downs NHS Health Trust (SDHT)	provides community, rehabilitation, specialist and, in co-operation with the Children and Young People's Trust, children's services for people living mainly in the Brighton and Hove area
South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMBS)	responds to 999 calls from the public, urgent calls from health professionals and in Kent and Sussex, and provides non-emergency patient transport services
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Sussex Partnership)	provides specialist mental health, learning disability and substance misuse services in and across Sussex.