

Liverpool LINK Meets Health Minister

Liverpool LINK members had an unexpected meeting with Simon Burns, Minister of State for Health, during a recent 'Enter and View' visit to Liverpool Women's Hospital.

LINK Core Group members, Rev Maria Renate, Jo Harrison-Smith and Jacqui Jones, were at the hospital on one of their regular fact-finding visits to scrutinise the quality of local health and social care providers, and Mr Burns was on a visit of his own accompanied by his advisors.

The two groups met up for an impromptu discussion about how Liverpool LINK engages with the community, how it prioritises the issues it works on, and how it can demonstrate that it is making a difference to local health and social care strategy and commissioning decisions. The Minister was impressed by the size and structure of the LINK and by its ability to get its recommendations taken seriously by Liverpool PCT and the city council.

Following their meeting with Mr Burns, LINK members met with Trust Chief Executive Kathryn Thomson, Gail Naylor (Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Experience), professional leads and public governors before undertaking an extensive tour of the Reproductive Medicine Unit, Gynaecology, the Neonatal Unit and the Maternity Unit.

They had the opportunity to speak to staff and patients and were able to ask a range of questions and discuss issues relevant to current LINK work priorities – particularly around cancer screening and treatment, Quality Accounts and the pathways between health and social care services. Gail Naylor, Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Experience, said "Staff and patients really welcomed the visit, it gave us the opportunity to showcase good practice".

A report of this visit to Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust will be available at www.liverpoollink.org.uk soon.



LIVERPOOL LINK

News

February 2011

Welcome from Mike Marsh - Chair of Liverpool LINK



Dear LINK members, I would like to thank everybody who has helped me over the past year, especially members of the Core Group who have all worked their socks off on your behalf, and of course our award winning support staff, who have kept me in check and helped me through some really tough times.

This year is going to be even more of a challenge with LINK about to go into a transition period so we can work towards the introduction of Healthwatch in readiness for its launch in April 2012.

LINK needs your input as we need to know what our members and partners want and expect from the transition. Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services will be funded 2011/2012 to enable a smooth transition from LINK to Healthwatch. The City Council have stated that they will make funding available to cover the year of transition, however in the present economic climate we expect a cut.

I strongly encourage members and partners to complete the enclosed questionnaires which have been drawn up by our Group. Please complete them and return them either to the FREEPOST address that's on the form or you can complete them online at www.liverpoollink.org.uk

Liverpool LINK – 'Working Together For Change' Event – All welcome

28th March 2011 9.30am – 4pm, LACE Centre
Croxteth Dr, L17 1AA

Is for all members, partners and 'friends' of LINK to explore and understand the new emerging health structures and recognise their potential role.

Current work

Update on LINK Information Gathering Groups - 2011

Liverpool LINK has been working from December 2010 on a range of new topics that were suggested by members: Reports will be available April 2011.

- **Cancer Services in Liverpool** - with a focus on awareness and screening services
- **Mental Health services in the Alt Valley area , Liverpool** - with a focus on services for stress and anxiety
- **The transition of LINKs to Healthwatch UK** - including GP commissioning

Cancer Services Group

This group of LINK members is looking at what is being done in Liverpool to encourage improved awareness of the signs and symptoms of common forms of cancer and to encourage people from all communities to take up cancer screening opportunities when offered or to seek early advice from GPs if they notice potential signs or symptoms. They are also considering what support is available to individuals and families following diagnosis.

The Group has spoken to PCT officers including the Healthy Communities Cancer Collaborative Team. They have also visited Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre and spoken to research scientists. They plan to invite further input from Commissioners, GPs, Health Trainers, Merseyside and Cheshire Cancer Network and cancer support groups. Their main focus for the next three months will be holding focus groups and community consultation including four community meetings aimed at different sections of the community.

Open meeting – all welcome: Wednesday 9th Feb, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, CENTEC, Stopgate Lane, Aintree, L9 6AW

Men only meeting: Thursday 10th Feb, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, LCVS, 151 Dale Street, L2 2AH

Women only meeting: Thursday 17th Feb, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, WHISC, 20 Bold Street, L1 4JA

If you can't attend one of the meetings but would like to have your say you can complete the questionnaire enclosed, or online at www.liverpoolink.org.uk/ or call the LINK team on 0151 227 5177 for a hard copy.

The information we collect from you will contribute to a report which will be passed to Liverpool PCT later this year and which will make recommendations for the future - based on what you tell us.

Mental Health services in the Alt Valley Area, Liverpool

This Task and Finish Group has developed a Questionnaire which is currently being disseminated in the Alt Valley Neighborhood. The Group aims to submit its report to relevant commissioners by the end of March 2011.

LINK to Healthwatch

The focus of this is to conduct an analysis of Liverpool LINK, to establish what has worked well that can be built upon to forge forward towards the transition to Healthwatch. The end result of this work will be a report that is presented to the Liverpool LINK Core Group with options and recommendations to assist the move to Healthwatch.

'Enter and View' Visits

Two Enter and View visits have taken place since September 2010. These were to Mersey Care's Broadoak Unit and Liverpool Women's Hospital. Reports and recommendations have been produced following both visits and have been shared with the Trusts concerned. The final reports are now available on the LINK website.

As with previous visits to Trusts, the LINK members were well received by staff and engaged in useful discussions with both staff members and patients. Feedback from both Trusts has been very positive and the visits have led to closer working relationships and greater involvement of the relevant LINK Ambassadors in patient and public involvement initiatives by the Trusts concerned.

In the next few months we aim to visit Alder Hey, Aintree, The Walton Centre and, for the first time, a care home.

As usual, visits aim in particular **a)** to ask questions which will help LINK members make constructive commentary on Trust's Quality Accounts and **b)** to elicit information which can contribute to current Task and Finish work.

Round Up Of Last Year's 2010 Topics

'Liverpool: Healthy City?' Report

The report was submitted to Liverpool PCT and Liverpool City Council in October and has had a positive response from Derek Campbell (PCT Chief Executive) and commissioners for Older People's services and Mental Health services.

The LINK Core Group – including the Chair of the Information Gathering Group will monitor responses to their recommendations to ensure that there is continuity during the expected changes in commissioning structures.



Left to right: Dorcas Akeju OBE, Stanley Mayne and Anne Gorton at the 'Tackling Social Inequality in Merseyside' conference.

Some of the LINK members involved in compiling the report gave a well received presentation about their findings at the 'Tackling Social Inequality in Merseyside' conference at the University of Liverpool on 17th November.

Sexual Health Report

The LINK Liverpool Sexual Health Services Report 2010 was posted to Paula Williams, Commissioning Lead for Sexual Health Services and Community Based Provider Services, Liverpool Primary Care Trust on 30th November 2010. The LINK has received a very positive reply to this report from the Commissioner and Liverpool Primary Care Trust has now invited LINK members onto their Sexual Health Focus Group. This will continue LINK engagement in shaping the future of sexual health services in Liverpool.

Physical and Sensory Impairments Report

The Liverpool LINK Report: Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services for People with Sensory and Physical Impairments, has been checked by the Liverpool LINK Core Group and was posted to Jacqui Campbell, Head of Integrated Commissioning, Physical and Sensory Impairments in December 2009. LINK is currently awaiting a reply, which was due to be with us at the end of January.

All the reports are available online at www.liverpoolink.org.uk or call us on 0151 227 5177 for a hardcopy.

LINK Open Events - Everyone welcome

As well as the Cancer Services Events, the events below will give you an opportunity to:

- **Find out** how local people are working to make health and social care services work better for us all.
- **Have your say** to improve health and social care in your Neighbourhood.
- **Help to influence** how cancer, stress, anxiety and depression services work.
- **You can also look at local priorities to help determine what services people value most in the NHS and what may not be so useful.**

Liverpool LINK Northern Neighbourhoods Event

Tuesday 22nd February 2011 - 1.00pm to 3.30pm
Neurosupport Centre,
Norton Street, L3 8LR

Aimed at residents in: City and North, Alt Valley and East Liverpool Neighbourhoods

Liverpool LINK Southern Neighbourhoods Event

Monday 28th February 2011 - 1.00pm to 3.30pm
The Bridge Chapel Centre Garston,
Heath Rd, L19 4XR

Aimed at residents in: Liverpool South Central, Liverpool South Neighbourhoods

Liverpool LINK Trust Quality Accounts Event

Thursday 17th February - 1pm to 4pm
Quaker Meeting House,
22 School Lane, L1 3BT

An opportunity for public to meet representatives from local NHS Hospital Trusts and have your say about plans to improve these NHS services.

To book a place or find out more info about any of our events, go to: Email: info@liverpoolink.org.uk, or call us on 0151 227 5177

Lifetime Achiever Award For Tim Oshinaike



Tim Oshinaike
receiving his award

Tim Oshinaike, who has been involved with LCVS and Liverpool LINK for many years now, won the Lifetime Achiever Award at the Merseyside Black Achievers Award ceremony in October 2010.

Over 450 guests attended, making the event at St George's Hall one of inspiration, recognition and entertainment. The 6th Merseyside Black History Month Achievers Awards recognise individuals and groups who have made a valuable contribution to the life and development of the Black and Racial Minority communities of Merseyside.

Tim was nominated for his tireless work in the community for many years. Tim continues to contribute to the wellbeing of older people throughout the region, as well as ensuring that older black people's views are taken on board by service providers in Liverpool.

Tim said "I was very shocked and at the same time honoured to have won this award. Since coming to Liverpool on invitation in 1982 to help start the Charles Wootton Technology Centre for 16+ year-olds, I felt like an outsider. Receiving this award I feel at last like I have been truly accepted as one of the community. I dedicate this award to every man and woman in the community, and I hope to continue contributing as much as I can".

Emergency or E Cards



Emergency Cards or E Cards were developed for People with Learning Disabilities who might come in to contact with or require police assistance. The cards alert the police to the fact they may have

communication difficulties and give details about how best to deal with their communication needs.

The card has been successfully used by Lancashire and Greater Manchester Police which has raised awareness of learning disabilities within the forces; creating better understanding resulting in more effective interventions. Other positive outcomes include the involvement of other organisations raising awareness of the card and providing support.

A lot of interest has been generated by the card as it can potentially be used by other people who may also have communications difficulties, due to illness or other disabilities, and people who do not have English as their first language.

Work is under way in Liverpool with several partner organisations to see how best the card can be used. It is hoped future work will involve medical services, accommodation providers, transport companies, education and sports and leisure facilities amongst others.

For more information about the card or to get involved in the project please contact Karen Bellion (People First) karenb@peoplefirst.uk.com, John Scott (Hate Crime Unit) John.W.Scott/E@Merseyside.pnn.police.uk or Jennie Man (Liverpool Learning Disabilities Partnership) Jennie.Man@liverpoolpct.nhs.uk

A Few Minutes For A Healthier Future

If you live in Liverpool, are aged between 40 and 74, and don't have a pre-existing heart-related condition, you will soon be receiving a letter about NHS Health Checks.

NHS Health Checks are a free, routine assessment designed to keep your heart healthy. They focus on preventing major causes of illness in Liverpool, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. These conditions are often avoidable and manageable, and a health check can help with that.

If you are eligible, you will be invited by a GP practice to attend for a health check. You may be asked to attend a different practice to the one you are registered with, but it will be local to you.

There's absolutely no need to worry about being called in for a check – the aim is to prevent illness, and a few minutes spent on your own health now could add years to your life.

NHS Health Checks are a national programme. They are being introduced locally by Liverpool Primary Care Trust, which plans NHS care for the city.

If you would like a copy of this information in another language or format, including large print or Easy Read, please let us know.

For information about how you can get involved in Liverpool LINK, contact:

Liverpool LINK
Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services (LCVS)
151 Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH

Telephone 0151 227 5177 Email info@liverpoollink.org.uk
website www.liverpoollink.org.uk

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