

Your Voice on Local Health and Social Care

July 2008

Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth Number 1



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Information Events coming up (details overleaf)

30 July
Sturminster Newton

4 August
Poole

8 August
Bournemouth

13 August
Weymouth

28 August
Ferndown

4 September
Lyme Regis

YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK OUT

Ever wanted to speak up about a health or social care service in your area but not known how? It might have been to offer an opinion on how things could be improved, or talk about an experience – good or bad. Well, now you have the opportunity.

HOW DOES A LINK WORK?

A LINK (Local Involvement Network) is a network of local people and groups. It listens to what people like you have to say about health and social care services in your area, and tells councils and the NHS what it has discovered. They are legally obliged to give the LINK any information it asks for and to respond to any recommendations the LINK makes. Joining together in LINKs, we can be more effective than we could be on our own.

HOW CAN I HAVE MY SAY?

Your local LINK wants to hear from you what you think about your local health or social care services – good or bad. There are lots of different ways you can do this. For instance, you can talk to someone, fill in a questionnaire or online survey or attend a meeting.

If you want to make your voice heard:

- ✓ Register online at www.makesachange.org.uk
- ✓ Call us on 0845 4500 418
- ✓ Email us: contact@makesachange.org.uk
- ✓ Write to us at the address overleaf

YOUR LINKS HOST ORGANISATION

Each local Council must contract with a Host Organisation to establish and support the LINK in its area. The role of a Host includes activities such as helping LINKs with marketing and communications, developing policies and procedures (covering aspects such as decision making), keeping records, arranging visits to view health and social care services, gathering the views of local people, and organising meetings.

Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth have appointed Help and Care, a local charity, to be the Host Organisation in their areas. Help and Care has been working with local communities for 23 years. Mark Sharman, their Chief Executive, said "We are delighted to host the LINKs. Over the coming months Help and Care will build the foundation from which the LINKs service will grow. We want as many people as possible to be involved, any person of any age, sex, nationality or profession is welcome; everyone's opinion counts. The LINK has the potential to grow into an extremely powerful group that can lobby for change and influence important decisions on health and social care services."



How to contact us

Email us:
contact@makesachange.org.uk

Call us on 0845 4500418

Monday-Thursday 9-5

Friday 10-4.30

Write to us at:

Freepost Business Reply
Service

Licence No. BH1902

LINKs

896 Christchurch Road

Bournemouth

BH7 6B



INFORMATION EVENTS

We are holding a series of information events, where you can learn more about LINKs and help to shape the way your local LINK will work. People who have already attended these events have said:

- "This could be a dynamic resource"
- "Brilliant idea"
- "I'm very glad I came and have been informed"
- "Well organised. I hope it succeeds"
- "Looking forward to working with LINKs in the future"

The next events are:

- **Wednesday 30th July, 10a.m. to 1p.m.**
The Exchange, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1QU
- **Monday 4th August, 1.30p.m. to 4.30p.m.**
Upton House, Upton Country Park, Poole BH17 7BJ
- **Friday 8th August, 10a.m. to 1p.m.**
Kinson Community Centre, Pelhams Park, Milham Road, Bournemouth BH10 7LH
- **Wednesday 13th August, 10a.m. to 1p.m.**
Weymouth College, Cranford Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 7LQ
- **Thursday 28th August, 10a.m. to 1p.m.**
Barrington Centre, Theatre Hall, Penny's Walk, Ferndown, BH22 9JP
- **Thursday 4th September, 10a.m. to 1p.m.**
Marine Theatre, Church Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3QA



Because places are limited, you will need to book a place in advance. Email us at contact@makesachange.org.uk or ring us on 0845 4500 418 and let us know which event you would like to attend.

www.makesachange.org.uk

A new web site is under development, which will gather together information and resources for all the LINKs hosted by Help and Care. Currently, these areas are: Dorset, Poole, Bournemouth, Somerset, Torbay, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest and Windsor and Maidenhead. You can already access the site at www.makesachange.org.uk and vote in our first two polls – about GP opening hours and the funding of adult social care. On the site, you can also register your interest in LINKs. Registration will ensure that we are able to keep you informed on what is happening with LINKs in your area.

Future developments of the site will bring more news local to your area and more interactive services, for example discussion forums, surveys and questionnaires.

Contact us. Register your interest in LINKs. Have your say about your local health and social care services. Get your voice heard.

W: www.makesachange.org.uk

T: 0845 4500 418

E: contact@makesachange.org.uk