

TORBAY LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK

Issue 5: May 2009 Torbay

Torbay Local Involvement Network

Welcome to the May edition of Torbay's Local Involvement Network (LINK) Newsletter.

Evening Event a Great Success.

"Caring for Vulnerable Adults"

The Torbay Local Involvement Network became officially active in January this year and held its first event at the end of March.

The event held at the Methodist Church in Palace Avenue, Paignton was chaired by Peter Shipman Lead Member of the Stewardship Group. The evening was informative and well attended by members of the public and the LINK .

Guest speaker *Deborah Kelly* from Torbay Care Trust's Safeguarding Adults Team talked firstly, about the practicalities of protecting adults from abuse in Torbay, and secondly about the "Deprivation of Liberty" safeguards which have recently been introduced in England and Wales. For more information about safeguarding adults visit the <http://www.torbay-pct.nhs.uk/>

Memory boxes were the next item on the agenda, introduced by Hazel Weaver - Care Manager from Torquay Care Home Eclipse Lodge and her colleague Lucy Tonge.



Hazel Weaver *"The staff at Eclipse Lodge are constantly seeking new and innovative ways to engage with residents - Recently they have been creating memory boxes which contain items of memorabilia and are used as a therapy to evoke memories and engage people in a journey of reminiscence and communication".*



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Memory Boxes

Contact Eclipse Lodge

01803 607604

www.crocus.care.co.uk

"Memory Boxes have been a huge success...We have an ongoing appeal for items to make up the boxes and hope to establish an extensive memory box library for Torbay."

Contact The Torbay LINK:

Tel: 01803 295 277

Tel: 0300 111 0102

Email:

contact@makesachange.org.uk

Website:

www.makesachange.org.uk

11 Castle Road
Torquay
TQ1 3BB

Once established it is hoped the boxes will be available for use both within the care home and the wider community.

Mike Vango – From the LINK Stewardship Group brought the evening to a close with an impassioned talk about the consequences of living with Dementia now, and his concerns for the future. Mike can be contacted through the Torquay LINKs office.

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission is now the independent regulator of health and social care in England. Its aim is to make sure better care is provided for everyone, whether that's in hospital, in care homes, in people's own homes, or elsewhere.

It will regulate health and adult social care services, whether provided by the NHS, local authorities, private companies or voluntary organisations. And, will protect the rights of people detained under the Mental Health Act.

In the past the regulation of health and social care services has been carried out by the Commission for Healthcare, audit and inspection (known as the Healthcare Commission) and the Commission for Social Care Inspection. The Mental Health Act Commission was monitoring functions with regard to the operation of the Mental Health Act 1983.

For more information <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

Brixham Community Hospital Opens New Ward

The Torbay Care Trust has an ongoing commitment to upgrade facilities at the old Brixham Community Hospital. The first stage has now been completed and the new inpatient ward is open. May Harland from the LINK went to have a look.

"Brixham residents will love this excellent new facility. The ward is clean and bright – there are four four bedded rooms and four single rooms all with en-suite bathrooms. In addition there is day-room, a relatives room and a specially adapted kitchen. Access to X-ray, physiotherapy etc in the older part of the hospital are covered walkway"



Go Green - save the trees

Save the trees and conserve the cash. Receive this newsletter by email instead of post.

To do this, email word 'eNews' with your name and the local area you are registered with (e.g. Torbay) to: contact@makesachange.org.uk

Torbay LINK team:

Richard Martin - Development Officer

Gillian Greenham
Communications & On-line Support Officer

Wendy Webb - Administration

Tell us your stories!

Your local LINK wants to hear about your experiences of health and social care.

Tell us what you think about: day care; hospitals; help in the home; dentists; supported housing; sexual health services; GPs; residential homes; and anything else to do with health and social care

Contact us today - it's never been easier! See above for contact details. There are many ways to get in touch - freepost, local rate telephone number, email & online.

The Torbay Care Trust is consulting with Brixham residents to establish what services are needed in phase two of the new development.

If you would like to take part in the consultation contact the Torbay Care Trust on: 01803 210541.

Link Stewardship Group Membership News

The nine members of the LINK Stewardship Group were initially elected last September for a term of 6 months to set up the LINK.

It was agreed with the host organisation Help and Care that the initial term of the members of the group would be extended by six months to 1 October 2009.

Due to work or other commitments, one member never took office and two other members group subsequently resigned; it was also agreed with the Host that the vacancies might be filled for a six month period by the co-option of suitable members.

The Stewardship Group therefore decided to co-opt three members from the LINK participation groups (Pat Hair, Judy Punshon and Ann Skipworth) at its March meeting in Paignton.

Richard Martin

Development Officer

Torbay LINK

The Working LINK - Hospital Transport Consultation

Earlier this year the LINK was asked to look how residents accessed Torbay Hospital and if improvements in public services were needed.

Members of the Torbay LINK visited a selection of outpatient's clinics at the hospital over a three day period to 30TH March to 1st April.

Over two hundred patients completed a questionnaire about how they had travelled to the Hospital.

A preliminary summary of the findings were as follows:

The majority of patients travelled to the hospital by car.

They would like improved parking at the hospital site.

They would also have liked information about accessing public transport and hospital transport prior to attending – and suggested sending it out with confirmation letters.

The remaining patients travelled either by public transport, taxi, hospital car service or on foot.

The LINK is now planning to undertake similar surveys at both Paignton and Brixham Community Hospital's.

The next stage of the consultation will be to consider public transport options and identify any help that may be available to patients under the terms of the Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme.

For more information about this survey contact Richard Martin. 01803 295277.

Future Meetings:

The Local Involvement Network will be holding its next public meetings in July and September.

The meeting in July will be exploring Health and Social Issues for young people, and the September meeting will be looking at Mental Health provisions in Torbay and the surrounding area.

All are welcome. For more details contact the office 01803 295277 or see the events page on our website.

JOIN UP

Working with the LINK.

If you have some spare time and an interest or experience in Health and Social Care get in touch.

We are looking for new members to join our working groups.

Over the last six months the LINK has been gathering information to formulate a Workplan. It has established groups to look at the following areas of health and social care provision..

Primary and Social Care:

Teenage pregnancies, budget cutbacks, safeguarding adults.

Acute Care:

Hospital transport, Hospital Discharge.

Mental Health:

Care in the Community, Out of County Placement.



Do you know someone with depression, dementia, anxiety, drug or alcohol problems, or someone who has a learning difficulty?

If so, Devon Partnership NHS Trust, a provider of mental health and learning disability services throughout Devon, would like to hear from you. We are applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust and want to encourage as many people as possible to become members. Foundation Trusts were created to improve the way the NHS works and are still part of the NHS but local people can have more of a say in how they are run by becoming members.

Register free to become a member and you will receive:

- regular news about the Trust
- updates on the mental health and learning disability services we provide
- advice on how to look after your mental health and wellbeing
- access to NHS staff discounts

Join now to have your say about your local mental health and learning disability services.

Call 01392 208700, log on to www.devonpartnership.nhs.uk or email dpn-tr.membership@nhs.net for more information.

Learning Disability:

The LINKs Communication Team will be working towards making LINKs information accessible.

Come and meet LINK Members at the "Volunteering in Torbay" Event

Saturday 6th June

Union Square, Torquay.

10. am - 4 pm.

If you have any ideas for Events in your area - let us know - or if you would like us to come and talk to you or your group about the work of the LINK get in touch.

Torbay Local Involvement Network

If you're talking - We're listening!