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What are your views on the John Parkes Respite Centre?

Torbay Local Involvement Network

Parents Fight for Respite Centre



There are many disabled children in South Devon whose families are desperate for regular respite breaks.

The John Parkes Unit in Torbay is the only facility offering specialist in-house nursing care to severely disabled children; with life limiting or with complex medical conditions. Now a review of respite care by the Torbay Care Trust means this facility is under threat of closure. Options for Parents and Carers are the Robins Respite Centre in Dartington, near Totnes or a scheme called "Family2family" where a host family is recruited to offer respite. Concerned parents have invited the LINK to get involved in their campaign to keep the unit open.

Julia Mellhuish - Parent Carer *"The Robins Unit in Dartington doesn't take young children and they don't have fully trained nursing staff"*
"The Family2family scheme might suit some – But where are you going to find a family that is prepared to have walls knocked down and hoists put up all over the place to accommodate a child one or two nights a month? My son needs a wheel chair, specialised seating, a specialised bed, a standing frame and that's just the start of it. Most of the Children using John Parkes have extremely complicated health issues"

May Harland - Torbay LINK *"Peace of mind for parents with disabled children is paramount, so is having a physical break away from their caring responsibilities - Closing Centres like the John Parkes Unit could turn out to be a false economy in the long-term"*

Health bosses are insisting it's not just about the respite service at the John Parkes Unit – but part of a wider review. Members from the Torbay LINK hope to meet with the Commissioners. Watch this space..

Other News:

SWAST

South Western
Ambulance Service Trust

5 October 2009,
Guildhall, Plymouth City
Council, Plymouth

9 November 2009, Truro
Town Hall, Municipal
Buildings, Boscawen Street


11 November 2009,
Bournemouth International
Centre, Exeter Road,
Bournemouth

1 December 2009,
Albermale Centre, Albermale
Road, Taunton

Brixham Community
Hospital consultation.
For information
contact the Torbay Care
Trust:
01803 210541
[www.torbaycare
trust.nhs.uk](http://www.torbaycare
trust.nhs.uk)

To Contact the Torbay LINK

LINKs Torbay
11 Castle Road
Torquay TQ1 3BB
01803 295277

South Western Ambulance Service 
NHS Trust

Do you have views on how the South West's ambulance service is run? Have you got comments to make about your own experiences, or those of your family or friends, of using emergency, urgent care or patient transport services?

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SWAST) is seeking your opinions on its plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust, in a public consultation which runs from Monday 14 September until Sunday 6 December 2009.

As part of the NHS Foundation Trust application process, SWAST is also aiming to recruit 15,000 members who are representative of the communities they serve. This is a further opportunity for people to support SWAST's life-saving work and get involved with service development.

For more information: log on to www.swast.nhs.uk/ft
Consultation Coordinator Lynne Paramor: 01392 261509.

Alternatively, you can attend your nearest public meeting. From 09.00 am to 09:00 pm, when a rolling 2 hour presentation will be given: (See Left)

The latest from the Community Hospital in Brixham



The Brixham Community Hospital Consultation has now been completed. Residents have asked the Torbay Care Trust to retain the present parking provision and to consider providing NHS dentistry and GP services on site.

Changing Faces at Help and Care.

Over the last few weeks there have been some staff changes at Help and Care – the host organisation for the Torbay LINK.

We are delighted to welcome Locality Manager Stephen Letchford. With his background as a medical professional in the Navy he brings some great skills and understanding to this complex role. Development Officer Pat Harris is expected to start in her new post this month. Pat has worked in the voluntary sector for seventeen years.

We say goodbye to Richard Martin and Wendy Webb.

Torbaylink@makesachange.org.uk

EVENTS:

The Torbay Local Involvement Network will be holding an event on the 14th of October to discuss Mental Health Issues
Guest Speakers:

Ann Redmayne,
Torbay Care Trust.
Shawn Tait, Devon
Partnership Trust
Linden Lynn – a
personal experience.

*Palace Avenue
Methodist Church,
Paignton
18.30 Hrs.*

For more details go
online or contact the
Torbay LINKs office.
01803 295 277

*“If you’re talking -
we’re listening”*

See our Annual Report
online or contact the
LINKs Office for a copy.

find out more about LINKs
policy visit:

www.dh.gov.uk/links

The LINK – Working for YOU

Mental Health – Are we getting Better?

Did you know that one in four people will experience some kind of mental health problem in their lives? Did you know Torbay has one of the worst suicide rates in the UK?

This October in recognition of **World Mental Health Day** the Torbay LINK is having an event to highlight the opportunities and challenges for mental health services in Torbay and Devon.

Children’s Health Services: See John Parkes Unit below.

Primary & Social Care:

The Torbay Care Trust’s **Safeguarding Adults Team** launched the new Safeguarding Adults 2005 Mental Capacity Act and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards policies and procedures. The team delivered a comprehensive policy overview and answered questions as they arose. Dr. Carol Tozer delivered a powerful speech on the importance of Safeguarding Adults now and challenges in the future.

The recent launch was attended by over 200 people including staff from all agencies and the voluntary sector and LINKs.

Feedback has been extremely positive and Torbay now has a large number of people who have an excellent overview of what to do if they see or experience abuse.

John Parkes Unit

The LINK has been invited to support Parent Carers who will be affected by the proposed closure of the **John Parkes Respite Unit**. See front page.

Services for the elderly

The LINK is exploring ways to work in partnership with Age Concern to improve services for the elderly in Torbay.

Local Care Home Strategy

Within the next 5 years 45% of Torbays population is expected to be aged 50 or over. Recent trends in Social Care are moving towards helping people to live in their own homes for longer. There is no doubt that this will have an impact on the local Care Home market in Torbay.

The Care Trust and Council are responsible for developing a local strategy to create a robust and responsive Care Home provision.

The LINK is in discussions with the Care Trust about assisting with possible interviews. It is hoped the findings from these interviews will help to provide information for the Strategy. If you would like report your own experiences of using care homes in the Bay – contact us.

Acute Care

Findings from the the LINK **Transport to Hospital** consultation (see May newsletter) have been sent to The Torbay Care Trust and the South Devon Healthcare Foundation Trust.

Learning Disability

The LINK Communications team is hoping to work with “Speak out Torbay” (SPOT) to make LINKs **information more accessible** – watch this space!

Torbaylink@makesachange.org.uk

SpeakOut!

If you are interested in finding out more about SpeakOut and applying to become a member please contact Khalil Patel at the International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion, Harrington Building, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, PR1 2HE.
Tel: 01772 892780

kapatel@uclan.ac.uk

Closing date is 29th
September 2009.



If you are interested in joining the LINK or finding out more about what it does – get in touch. Reports on LINKs activity and meeting minutes are available online or through the LINKs Office

LINKs Website:
makesachange.org.uk

LINKs Gateway
0300 111 0102
Monday-Thursday 9-5
Friday 10-4.30



SpeakOut!

Giving small and marginalised groups a chance to have a big say.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. It aims to make sure that better care is provided for everyone, whether that's in hospital, in care homes, in people's own homes, or elsewhere. It regulates health and adult social care services, whether provided by the NHS, local authorities, private companies or voluntary organisations. It also protects the rights of people detained under the Mental Health Act. Central to effective regulation is community and public engagement. The SpeakOut network is run as a partnership between the CQC and the International School for Communities Rights and Inclusion at the University of Central Lancashire. SpeakOut supports small and often unheard or marginalised communities, by enabling them to have a voice.

We are seeking to expand the Network and are inviting new groups to join. We want groups from all over England, including rural and urban areas. This is an opportunity to have your voice heard; to take part in the regulatory process and to raise the profile of your group or organisation at both a regional and national level.

SpeakOut members are supported by the University of Central Lancashire who has a long and successful record of community engagement. A full programme of training is provided and a small amount of money is available cover the costs of taking part in network activities.

Can you help? – We need more Volunteers.

The Torbay LINK is now a year old and busier than ever. In the last 12 months we have established and consulted a network of organisations and individuals, produced a detailed survey about hospital transport, taken part in secret shopping, attended meetings, events and manned information stalls.

Over the next few months we will be busy with new projects and are looking for volunteers.

Future Projects may include surveys, investigating particular issues and producing reports. If you would like more information about working with your Local Involvement Network contact us.

Torbaylink@makesachange.org.uk