

Summary Care Records come to west Essex

All residents registered with a west Essex GP, over the age of 16 years, will receive a letter from Catherine O'Connell, chief executive NHS West Essex in March. The attached paper gives more information about Summary Care Records – a project which is being rolled out across England.

Social Care Bulletin – Issue 13

Please find attached the latest Social Care Bulletin designed for all staff working in social care.

Prime Minister confirms commitment to building a National Care Service

This week the Prime Minister delivered a speech on health and social care reform at the health think-tank The King's Fund. Gordon Brown pledged more choice, control and personalisation in health and social care and set out plans to expand the offer of care in the home and to provide dedicated one-to-one nursing for cancer patients.

The Prime Minister said:

"Our conviction today is that in our ageing – but no less aspirational – society, we should now match the values of the National Health Service with the creation of a National Care Service – one which enables the National Health Service and local government social care services to work together to shift decisively from a model which sees too many people in hospital or residential care, and too little support and care at home; to one which intervenes early to keep people active and healthy wherever possible –

and provides the care to enable them to live with dignity – and far longer – in their own homes."

More details and a copy of the Prime Minister's speech can be found at www.number10.gov.uk

Update on the Personal Care at Home Bill

The Personal Care at Home Bill website now has the working draft regulations based on the principles outlined in the consultation document. These working draft regulations will be subject to change depending upon responses to the consultation.

Many people who attended the events in London and Manchester asked if the slides used at these events would be available. These are also now on the site. Please go to:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Actsandbills/DH_110405

Have your say about more information about medicines being available online

The medicines' regulator is currently thinking about making information about medicines available online. This will be a big decision for them and they want your views on it – is it a good idea? What difference, if any, would such a resource make to you? How would you use a resource like this? They are running an online discussion at www.medinfodiscussion.org and would love to have your voice added to the conversation.

For those of you who have not heard of them, the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) is the government agency responsible for ensuring medicines and medical devices work and are acceptably safe. The discussion focuses on patient information leaflets (PILs) and Summaries of Product Characteristics

(SPCs), and the proposal to put a definitive database of these online. You can read, rate and add ideas to the discussion until 8 March 2010, during which time they hope to hear from as many people as possible, ranging from health professionals and patients to members of the public.

Find out more about the discussion, read others' ideas and add your own now at www.medinfodiscussion.org.

Members feedback form

Members of the LINK are undertaking lots of sterling work for their locality groups and it is not being recorded anywhere. It is very important that this is captured as it will help enormously when we come to write the LINK's annual report. All of this evidence will be valuable to support the continued funding that is required beyond March 2011. If you attend a meeting or event on behalf of the Essex & Southend LINK PLEASE complete a feedback form – your project coordinator will be very happy to do this over the phone if this is easier for you. Thank you.

Would you like to find out more about scrutiny of services?

The Essex & Southend LINK is looking for a “team” of 6 representatives to attend the following monthly meetings on a rotational basis:

- Essex County Council Older People and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
- Essex County Council Children & Lifelong Learning
- Essex County Council Health Overview & Scrutiny

If you are interested or require further details, please contact Wai Yeung, Policy & Research Coordinator on 020 8432 0012 or wai.yeung@cemvo.org.uk

Publicity for possible new LINK project

A possible new LINK project from north east Essex has had publicity in west Essex – see the attached news article about the group that helps bereaved women.