

Essex & Southend LINK

Weekly e-bulletin

Issue 23

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Essex Telecare Home Safety Service

Essex County Council is still offering a 12 month free trial of a Telecare Home Safety Service to Essex residents (excluding those living in Thurrock and Southend) aged 80 and over who are new to Telecare, enabling them to live safely and independently in their own home. It gives them the freedom of choice to live their life how they want and can give carers, family and neighbours increased peace of mind.

This offer, which expires at the end of March 2010, has already benefited over 3200 people, and includes free equipment, installation, maintenance and monitoring service (and response where available) for one year from the actual date of installation.

Anyone who may wish to benefit from the offer can still do so until 31st March 2010. For more information call 0845 603 7630 or visit www.essex.gov.uk/telecare

Essex & Southend LINK – ‘Vetting and Barring’ Social Care Seminar 15 March 2010, 12.30-14.00, St Cedds Hall, Chapter House, Chelmsford, CM1 1TY.

This event is **FREE** and a light lunch will be provided. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) website is now live

The site acts as an information source where details about the partnership, our structure and responsibilities, meetings and key documents can be found. It is intended that the site will continue to be very much a work in progress and pages will be developed in accordance to usage and feedback from partners. Lucy Payne, Chelmsford Partnership Co-ordinator, is encouraging all partners to make use of this resource and she will be happy to incorporate suggestions: www.chelmsfordpartnership.co.uk

Basildon Mental Health, Service Users, Carers’ Forum

You are invited to attend a Special Forum to be held on 29 March, 10.00am-12.00pm at St Martins Pastoral Centre, St Martins Square, Basildon. [Please see the attached flyer for more details.](#)

Survey on Stress in the voluntary sector

Can you help? Victoria Gamble, Regional Manager of the Terrence Higgins Trust is studying for an MBA and her dissertation is on stress in the voluntary sector. Victoria has asked us to circulate a link to her survey to our members in the hope that they would be prepared to help. She would be most thankful for any responses. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/stresssurvey>

Toolkit for Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The East of England Strategic Health Authority (EoE SHA) has drafted a Toolkit for Equality, Diversity and Human Rights which is applicable to all NHS organisations across the region (please see attached checklists). The Toolkit looks at core principles which the SHA feels must underscore all NHS activity across the region, including capacity building, proper governance, consulting stakeholders and effective leadership. It also provides organisations with practical toolkits to help them self assess, plan, implement and review their activities. Within this section it addresses the issue of consulting marginalised communities and creates a number of checklists to help organisations plan for these consultations. [If anybody has any contributions they would like to improve the draft attached](#), please contact Denise Bobb directly on Denise.bobb@easterndc.org.uk

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

The Essex & Southend LINK is looking for a “team” of 5 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 and Overview Scrutiny Committee

[If you are interested or require further details, please contact Wai Yeung, Policy & Research Coordinator on 020 8432 0012 or \[wai.yeung@essexandsouthendlink.org.uk\]\(mailto:wai.yeung@essexandsouthendlink.org.uk\)](#)

Chigwell Medical Centre public consultation meeting 16 March, 7.30-8.30

Have your say on the future of health care in your area. Drop in to a public meeting and talk to NHS staff about the proposed improvements to hospital services across north east London. [For more details please see the attached advertisement.](#)

Interested in Stroke and Cardiac Services?

The Cardiac and Stroke Network are currently looking to recruit new members who are interested in driving the services forward. The Network meet every two month from 12.pm – 2.30pm at Writtle College. Lunch is provided and all expenses are paid. The next meeting is on Thursday 13 May. [If you are interested please contact Sally Wallis-Boore, Public Involvement Manager, NHS Mid Essex. Tel: 01245 459395 or email: \[sally.wallis-boore@midessexpct.nhs.uk\]\(mailto:sally.wallis-boore@midessexpct.nhs.uk\).](#)

The NHS Constitution: securing the NHS today for generations to come

The Department of Health published a consultation on new patient rights on 10 November 2009. The consultation closed 5 February 2010. Over 8,000 people responded to the consultation which involved both local engagement activities carried out by PCTs, and a national consultation process. Following the consultation, a revised NHS Constitution has been published, including a new right to start non-urgent treatment within 18 weeks, and to see a specialist where cancer is suspected within 2 weeks of referral, or for the NHS to take all reasonable steps to offer a range of alternative providers where this is not possible. This new right comes into effect on 1 April 2010.

Here is a link which will give you loads more information on these new rights and the NHS Constitution. www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NHSConstitution/DH_093184

084 Numbers Consultation

Following the petition to the Prime Minister to prevent local health centres and hospitals from using 08 numbers such as 0844, 0845 or 0870, the Department of Health proposes to ban the use of premium rate numbers by NHS organisations. It has recently consulted on the use of 084 numbers in the NHS. [The Department's response to the consultation was published and is available on its website by typing '084 consultation response' into the search bar.](#)

The Department received approximately 3,000 responses to the consultation exercise; 2,000 from members of the public, a further 1,000 from the NHS, and a small number of responses from industry and other stakeholder organisations. The consultation demonstrated that there is overwhelming support for the banning of numbers, which cost the patient more to call than if they had called a normal geographical number (for example, numbers beginning 01 or 02). As a result of the consultation, the Department intends to amend legislation to stop the use of any telephone numbers, which charge patients more to contact the NHS than the equivalent call to a geographical number. This will be enforced through amendments to the GP contract regulations, and the issuing of Directions to NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).

The ban will be enforced as soon as the necessary legislative changes can be made. This will be early next year for GP Practices, but as soon as practically possible for NHS Trusts and PCTs. The Department's ongoing position on this issue has been that patients should not be expected to pay more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number, and, in the meantime, Ministers expect NHS organisations to continue to take this into account.

Mental Health – NSUN

People who have used mental health services sometimes describe themselves as 'survivors' of services. In 2003, service user-led research, coordinated by Jan Wallcraft, resulted in the report "[On Our Own Terms](#)". Among other recommendations, it urged the formation of a national network to bring groups together, to encourage good practice, and to build capacity within the sector. In May 2007 the newly named National Survivor User Network (NSUN) adopted the [Inaugural Mission, Aims and Values of the Network](#) for the coming period. NSUN immediately hired three members of staff. They now share an office with [Catch-A-Fiya](#), a national network organisation for service users and survivors from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities. We attach their latest newsletter. Further information can be found at: <http://www.nsun.org.uk/WebPage.aspx?Id=1>

Dementia Awareness Campaign

Just in case you have not seen the new awareness campaign on dementia you may find the downloadable booklet and the TV campaign useful.
<http://www.nhs.uk/dementia/Pages/Dementia.aspx>

Southend Hospital's Members' Meeting Schedule

Please see attached a schedule of Meetings and Speakers.