

Malvern Hospital

In June Malvern Community Hospital had an open afternoon and tours were given to local stakeholders, including the League of Friends. The tour showed the reception, consultation rooms, the Enhanced Procedures Suite including recovery beds, Inpatient beds including single en-suite rooms and the Palliative Care rooms.

The tours also included some interesting information; the paint colours around the hospital have been chosen through public and staff consultation, 14% of the energy will come from a combination of solar panels and ground source heat pump, there will be 24 beds in total (12 single rooms, three 4 bedded rooms, all single sex compliant). The first patients will be moved into the hospital in December!



Volunteering Opportunities

APC - Area Prescribing Committee

The APC meets monthly to manage medicines usage across the Worcestershire Health Economy. We would like to have a PPI representative at every meeting and are compiling a rota – if you would like to attend a couple of times a year please contact us.

Patient Group in the South of the County

Do you belong to a Patient Participation Group in Worcester, Wychavon or Malvern? If you would like to meet other PPG's and share information you are welcome to the South Worcestershire Patients Group. Please contact Helen Perry for details.

Mental Health Stakeholder Group

Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust is currently looking for people with experience of mental health problems, or experience of caring for someone with mental health problems, to get involved with designing mental health services for the future. Their experience can relate to adult or older adult mental health services, and to acute or community mental health services.

They will establish two stakeholder groups – one for adults (up to 65 years) and one for older adults (over 65 years). If you are interested please contact ftoffice@worcsmhp.nhs.uk



Please contact Sonia Spurr - Community Engagement Manager (pictured) or Helen Perry - Community Engagement Officer on 01905 733745 or by email to communications@worcestershire.nhs.uk for further information on any of the volunteering opportunities or with any questions you may have regarding patient and public involvement activities with NHS Worcestershire.

Having your say

August 2010

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS

The Secretary of State for Health has published a new NHS White Paper, called 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', setting out the coalition Government's vision for the NHS. This White Paper is the first step towards the Government's ambition for the NHS to achieve health outcomes and quality health services that are among the best in the world.

A new National Commissioning Board will allocate money to local GP consortia for them to use to commission local health services. Local authorities will take on responsibility for health improvement, currently held by Primary Care Trusts (PCT's). As a result of these changes, the Government expect PCT's to cease to exist from April 2013 in light of the successful establishment of GP consortia. It is also

planned that strategic health authorities will no longer exist from 2012/13. In the meantime, these organisations will have important roles to play in supporting the NHS through a period of change.

We will now be working over the coming weeks to ascertain how we will implement these changes in Worcestershire, and keep you updated as further details become available.

Please see www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/LiberatingtheNHS/index.htm for a copy of the White Paper and its supporting consultation documents.



Transforming Community Services

Community health services in Worcestershire are currently managed by Worcestershire Primary Care Trust Provider Services, which is in effect an arms length organisation within NHS Worcestershire (commissioning) and includes services such as District Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Audiology and Community Hospitals.

It is difficult for NHS Worcestershire to be both a commissioner and provider of community health services, and the need to split them is a Government Directive. This is given extra weight with the White Paper, and PCT's ceasing to exist in 2013. In March the NHS Worcestershire Board agreed a proposal to transfer community services to a new organisation,

however, this is no longer an option, but the work is still a priority and the separation of commissioning and provider services must be achieved by April 2011.

There are several options, and we are seeking key stakeholder's, including the public's, views on these as each has advantages and disadvantages. Please see the Engagement Document for detail on these options.

You can let us know what you think by responding to the questions in the last page of the Engagement Document by going online to www.worcestershire.nhs.uk/how-to-get-involved/consultations.aspx or by post to Communications, NHS Worcestershire, Wildwood, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR1 1SE

Bewdley Patient Participation Group – Carers

There are opportunities to get involved in your local GP practice's Patient Participation Group (PPG). Each group is different and can support the practice in a variety of ways.

Elaine Dale, a member of Bewdley Medical Centre's PPG describes an aspect of their group:

"Bewdley Medical Centre have a Carers Group that meets once a month. When we started members wanted to have time to socialize, as often when you become a carer you miss out on this."

We meet at the medical centre at 2.30pm for about 20 minutes and then go to the local Wetherspoons and drink coffee and natter until 4.30pm. We have also been out to afternoon tea at a local garden centre and also have a Christmas Dinner at the December meeting. I also give private advice on benefits and completing forms."

If you would like help setting up a PPG please contact Helen Perry on 01905 733874.

Having a Say in the NHS – presented at WASU

Following the Learning to Listen and Engage programme that we have reported on in past newsletters, Ian Parkhill and Helen Perry presented 'Having a Say in the NHS' at the Worcestershire Association of Service Users (WASU) AGM on 7 July at Worcester Warriors Rugby Club.

The programme had been aimed at training the NHS workforce to have a greater awareness of patient and public involvement, but Ian, a service user and Health Insight Panel member, felt that Service Users also had to learn to speak up and be active 'partners' in their healthcare.

For more information about WASU please contact z.collins@worc.ac.uk



AGM

NHS Worcestershire's Annual General Meeting 2010 was held at County Hall on 8th July. The Annual Report is available online at www.worcestershire.nhs.uk/publications.aspx

Before the AGM we held a Schools Health Challenge with 9 schools from across the county taking part. The teams of 6 answered questions on health issues and NHS Worcestershire. Congratulations to the winning school – Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College, Worcester (pictured) – who won £1000 to spend on sport equipment.



Meeting Attendance Records

In our last newsletter we asked you to complete our new Meeting Attendance Record. We have received some positive feedback, with all those that responded saying that they had enough information before the meetings (sometimes too much!), that they felt their contribution was valued and that they had the opportunity to input into the meetings.

We do require these for all meetings you attend when a member of the Community Engagement Team is not present. **Please call Zoe Perry on 01905 733744 if you require a hard copy of the form, or it can be found online at www.worcestershire.nhs.uk/how-to-get-involved/community-engagement.aspx**

Experience and Skills audit

We have received 23 responses to our Experiences and Skills audit. We are currently collating this information, which shows what a diverse and valuable range of volunteers we have, but we would like to have more responses please.

We will use this information to gain a better understanding of your skills so that we can utilise them more.

Cancer Strategy

Thank you for the response we have had to our Cancer Strategy consultation. The consultation closed on 6th August and we are currently analysing the results. We have received over 270 responses to the survey!

Healthy Lifestyles Hub Focus Group

A group of 10 volunteers and LINK representatives met with Darren Plant, Healthy Lifestyles Commissioner for NHS Worcestershire, to discuss the pros and cons of developing a single central hub for accessing lifestyle services in Worcestershire, such as: stop smoking services, health trainers, weight management, chlamydia screening.

The volunteers raised a number of issues that needed to be given careful consideration when developing a service of this kind. Including equitable access for all, easy accessible information and a service that offers

professional information that is delivered in a timely fashion.

The volunteers supported the venture and were able to offer Darren a raft of information to support him during the planning stages of the project. Darren thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the volunteers and valued the issues that people raised. He commented, 'it is really good to get out and talk to the people that may be accessing the service about the issues they may face. They are the cornerstone of what makes a service like this successful, so the information I have gathered today will inform the development of future Lifestyle services in Worcestershire.'

Volunteer Celebration Video

At the Volunteer Celebration in June there was an opportunity for attendees to record their thoughts about volunteering with NHS Worcestershire on film.

These snippets have been edited together into a short film that can be viewed on our the website: www.worcestershire.nhs.uk/how-to-get-involved/community-engagement/volunteering.aspx

