

LINKED UP

The Wandsworth LINK newsletter



This is an EasyRead version of the Linked Up February Newsletter.



Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) give local people the chance to say what they think about health and social care services. What they say is used to help make services better.



Wandsworth LINK is for everyone using health and social care services in the area.

Introducing the new LINK Chair



My name is Roger Appleton and I am the new chair of Wandsworth LINK.



I have been in Wandsworth since 1972, so I know the area well. I used to work for Wandsworth Council where part of my job was health matters.



I want to help local people get better health and social care services.



I want to make Wandsworth LINK open to everyone in the local area.

Changes to the LINK Executive

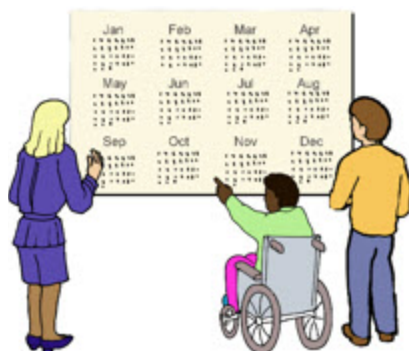


The **LINK Executive** is the group of people who run Wandsworth LINK. Every 3 years there is a vote to choose members of the Executive.



There are 2 problems with this:

1. Every 3 years you could have all new members with no-one knowing what to do.



2. New people to the area have to wait 3 years to become a member.



It is much better to have a mixture of new and old members.



So it has been agreed there will be a vote every year for 4 places on the Executive. The first vote will be in 2011.

Open Meeting

Everyone is invited to the next LINK Executive meeting:



16th March 2010
6.30-8.30 pm
Mushkil Asaan
220 - 222 Upper Tooting Rd
1st Floor (Side entrance)
SW17 7EW



After the main meeting we will talk about Mental Health Services.

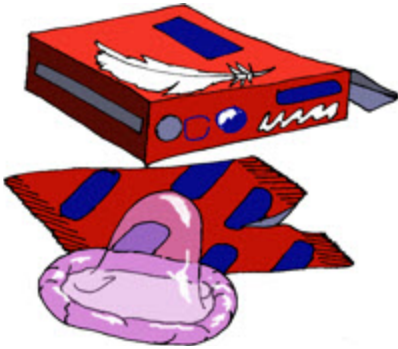


Wandsworth's Black Mental Health Forum and Voicing Views will be there as well.

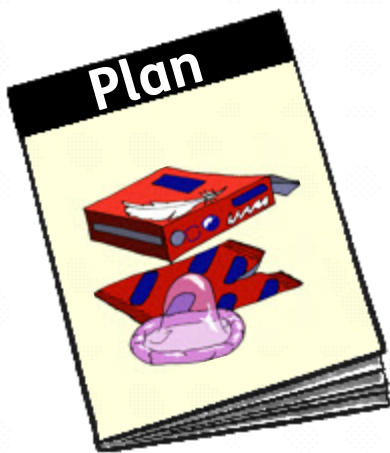


Voicing Views is a project that speaks up for service users.

Sexual Health – asking what you think



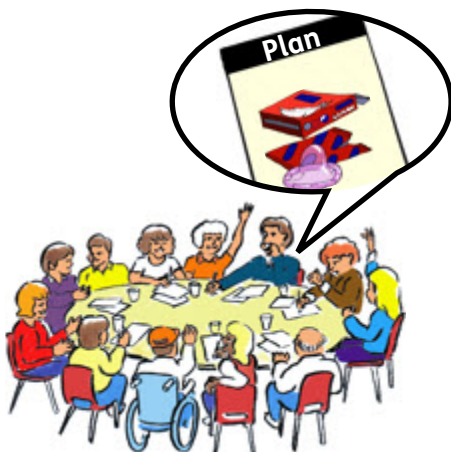
NHS Wandsworth wants to change their sexual health services. They want to make these services better.



They are writing a leaflet telling everyone about the planned changes.



Local people and groups will be able to say what they think. LINK will check to see that people are listened to.



LINK will also say what they think about the plans.

Polyclinic hubs



Polyclinic hubs are centres that give extra medical services to support local doctors.

NHS Wandsworth has decided to set up 4 polyclinic hubs in the borough.



The 4 hubs will be at:

- St George's (for Balham and Tooting)
- Queen Mary's Hospital (for Putney and Roehampton)
- Brockle Bank (for Central Wandsworth)
- St. John's Therapy Centre and Clapham Junction (for Battersea and North Wandsworth).



What Wandsworth LINK thinks about these hubs

For most of the Borough these hubs will give a lot of services in one place.



But there is still a problem in Battersea with the hub on 2 sites.



Wandsworth LINK will carry on working to get better services for people living in Battersea.

Electronic Patient Records



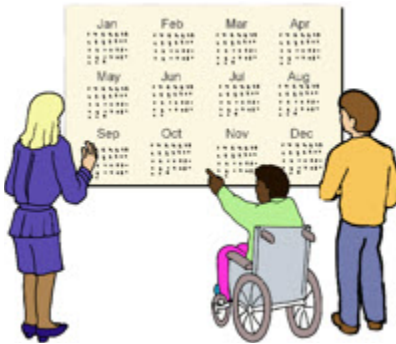
Electronic Patient Records are where a person's medical details are kept on a computer.

These records were set up to:

- make it easier to share patient records across the NHS (as long as the patient says yes)



- make it easier and faster to book hospital appointments - known as **Choose and Book**



- make it easier and safer to get medicine or tablets from your doctor



- have a National computer system for the NHS.



March 2011						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

31



NHS Wandsworth plans to have all patient records on computer by 31 March 2011.



Some people are worried about their medical details going onto a national computer system.



Wandsworth LINK will let you know if they hear anything more about these plans.

Enter and View



Enter and View is a new LINK project. It gives LINK **volunteers** the right to visit health and care services.



They can speak to users and carers about the care and help they get. **Volunteers** are people who do something for free.



The volunteers then write a report for the people running the service.

February 2010						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

The first visit of the Enter and View team will be to St George's Hospital on Wednesday, 17th February.



They will be able to talk to patients being sent home and to staff.

Free Talking Therapy in Wandsworth



Talking Therapy is when you talk to trained people about worries or feelings. It can be used instead of medicine.



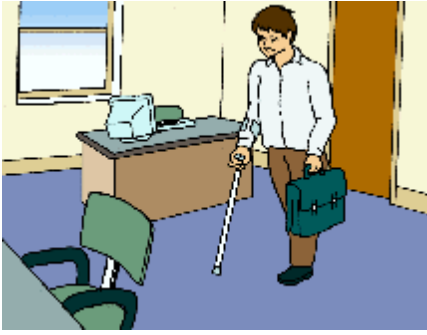
Wandsworth has been given £49 million to spend on this over the next 3 years.



There will be different services based on what you need:

- some people may only need group support
- some people may need sessions with a trained worker.





The service also has staff to help people find or keep jobs.



It also has staff to help people if they are having problems with their partners or family.



Older people and people from the black and other ethnic groups will get extra support to use this service.



People up till now only could use this service if their doctor asks for it for them. But from April people will be able to ask for it themselves.



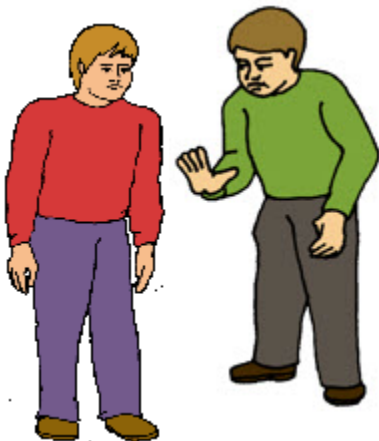
The plan is to have the service in different places like community centres and religious halls.



LINK thinks this service is a good idea. It is good that it will be free from the NHS.



There are some problems with the service that need sorting out.



For example – people are put forward for the service but then told they cannot have it.



They are upset because they thought they would get the service if their doctor asked for it.



LINK is worried that even more people will be upset at not getting the service when they start asking for it themselves.



LINK is trying to help make it easier for people to know if they will get the service.



LINK is also looking to see what other groups can offer different types of Talking Therapy.



To find out what is happening go to the website:

www.swlstg-tr.nhs.uk

Personal Budgets



A **Personal budget** is money people can get to buy their own care services.



It lets them choose the services they want instead of being told what services they will get.



On February 2nd Wandsworth adult services held a meeting about personal budgets.



The main issues from the meeting were:

- social care services will have to change the way they think and work to give people real choice and control



- the Council will need to be clear about how personal budgets can be used



- people asking for a personal budget may not agree with the Council about their needs. Who makes the final decision?



The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 30th March at 1.30pm.



For more information contact:

ehaselden@wandsworth.gov.uk



Soapbox - Join me

My name is Colleen Bowen and I am on the LINK Executive.



I have been a patient and service user for many years. I have a long term health problem and a disability that means I need to use a wheelchair.



As a service user I have helped make changes to services for many years.



I was chair of the **Access Group** that worked for better access to local services for disabled people.



I was also part of a user help group for people with disabilities.



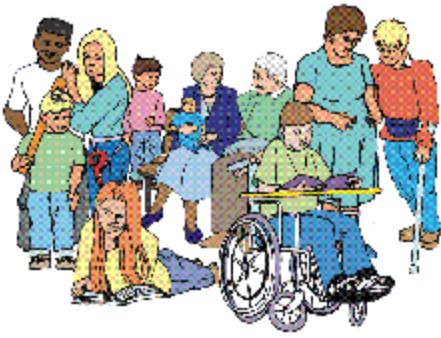
I joined **Community Partners** when it started in 2006. **Community Partners** was a small group of people with disabilities who got training on Personal Budgets.



I went round Day Care centres to help explain what Personal Budgets are.



I helped with the **START** scheme. **START** gives people 6 weeks free care when they come home from hospital.



Join In

LINK is setting up new groups for service users and carers.



You can make a difference. People using services see things in a different way to the people giving services.



To join the groups you need to use Wandsworth adult services or care for someone who does.



For some jobs with these groups the Council gives training and pays you for your time.

LINK supply transport, food and drink for any work you do for them.



I am very happy to talk to anyone who might be interested.

Join the Communication and Participation Group



The Communication and Participation Group works to support users and carers who use Wandsworth Health and Social Care Services.

The Group is looking for a new member. They will need to:

- go to 6 meetings a year. These are held in the afternoon and last for 2 hours



- go to events in Wandsworth and explain what LINK does.



You might need to help run a stall or visit local groups





- help find out what people think about services in Wandsworth



- work with LINK to let Wandsworth Health and Social Services know what people have said.



For more information or a chat - email or telephone the LINK office (details at the end of this Newsletter).

Social Networks online



Wandsworth LINK has set up a Twitter profile.



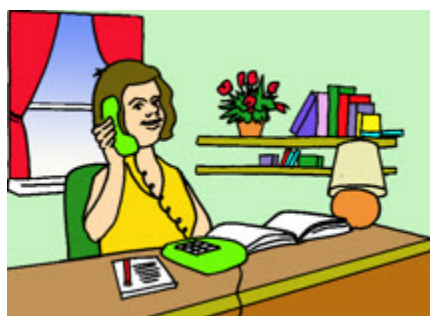
We have 50 followers and the number is growing every day.



We have also just set up a Facebook account - so please log in and look us up.



Wandsworth is a good area for the internet. So make the most of it and have your say.



For more information about how to join Twitter, contact the LINK office (details at the end of this Newsletter).

Ways to join in with LINK



You can do all sorts of things to join in. Some of them are for a short time, some are for longer – you choose.



You may have a health or social care issue that really matters to you. Working with LINK will give you more chance to make a difference.



You can join in on your own or with a group you belong to.



You can join in online:

- answering questions



- writing on our website



- following us on Twitter



- joining our Facebook Group.



You could become an Enter and View volunteer.



You could help at our meetings with the drinks and food. Or you could help run a stall at one of our events.



You may just want to let us know what you think about Wandsworth Health and Social Care Services.



How to contact Wandsworth LINK

Post:



**Wandsworth LINK
C/o Wandsworth Care Alliance
3rd Floor
Trident Business Centre
89, Bickersteth Rd
London
SW17 9SH**



Telephone:

020 8516 7767



E mail:

sarah@wandcareall.org.uk



Website:

www.wandsworthlink.org.uk



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