



# Manchester LINK

## INFORMATION SHEET

# MENTAL HEALTH

## Improving Mental Health services in Manchester

The Manchester LINK Mental Health Watchdog was established on the 1st April 2008 as part of the Manchester Local Involvement Network. Its main aim is to listen to what service users and carers say about current services and feed this back to the Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust. The group consists of service users, carers, representations from organisations and interested individuals.

To date the Mental Health Watchdog has been looking at the following issues:

- User / Carer engagement
- Fairer charging
- Service provision

### What has the LINK done?

In March 2010 the Mental Health Watchdog held four engagement events which allowed participants share their experiences of mental health services.

Manchester Mental Health Watchdog were also heavily involved with the referral regarding the closure of Cedars ward. This was taken to the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee {OSC} for members to consider if the correct process was followed. The referral resulted in it being agreed that there was a need to have a local definition of substantial variation {service change} for all NHS Services in Manchester. This will outline when it is necessary to carry out a full public consultation.



### **What is the LINK doing about Mental Health?**

The Manchester Mental Health Watchdog continue to build relations with Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust. They want to ensure that service users; carers and relevant organisations are involved with consultations and in the development of services provided for Manchester residents.



## What is the Manchester Local Involvement Network?

The Manchester LINK is a network of local people, organisations and groups that want to improve health and social care services in Manchester. The LINK is a way of telling people who purchase, provide and manage local services what is working and what isn't, as well as suggesting ideas that could make services better.

Manchester LINKs main aims and objectives are to:

- Give everyone a chance to say what they think.
- Give everyone the chance to check how health and social care services are planned and run.
- Feedback what has been said about services so that they can change for the better.

The LINK can only work if you tell us:

- What your concerns are;
- What you think works well so we can make sure a good service continues;
- What gaps in service you think should be covered and how this can happen.

You chose how and when you want to get involved with the work of the LINK.

## Useful Mental Health Contacts

42nd Street	0161 832 0170
African and Caribbean Mental Health Services	0161 226 9562
Crisis Point	0161 225 9500
HARP	0161 226 9907
Manchester Adult Social Care	0161 255 8250
Manchester Carers Forum	0161 819 2226
Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust PALS	0161 918 4047
Manchester Users Network	0161 918 4343
Mood Swings Network	0161 953 4105
Rethink Manchester	0161 245 3268
Self Help Services	0161 226 3871
South Asian Women's Group	0161 226 4632
Wai Yin	0161 237 5908

## Do you work with Mental Health Service Users

- \* Do you work for an organisation or group that works with mental health users?
- \* Do you want to find out more about the LINK and what it is doing?
- \* Do you want to get involved in the Watchdog?
- \* Would you like someone from the LINK to come out and speak to you and your organisation / group?
- \* Would you like someone from the LINK to come out and speak to your service users / clients?

If the answer is yes to any of these then please contact Lydia Hurford-Cato on 0161 214 3909 or email her at [lydia@blackhealthagency.org.uk](mailto:lydia@blackhealthagency.org.uk).

Contact the  
Manchester LINK

On

0161 214 3909

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[manchesterlink@blackhealthagency.org.uk](mailto:manchesterlink@blackhealthagency.org.uk)

