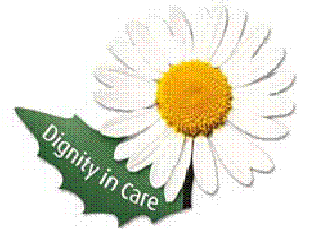




# Manchester LINK

JANUARY 2010

## Dignity & Respect



No matter what health or social care services we use, we would all like to be treated with dignity and respect when we do. Therefore the Manchester LINK has made a commitment to try and improve Dignity in Care for local people.

Following initial research interested LINK members decided to do a Project around homecare. The group felt that users of homecare agencies were particularly vulnerable and might need the LINK to have their voices heard. Therefore we are asking current users of homecare services to "Tell us YOUR story" about the care you receive. Based on these stories we can then tell services what they need to do better.

In addition, the LINK has organised a Christmas party for local dignity champions in early December. It was a great opportunity for champions to get to know each other, share their experiences, and discuss how they can improve Dignity in Care in the organisations they work for. Attending champions said they enjoyed the event and find such opportunities for networking really helpful. Hence we will try to organise more events like this in 2010. In the meantime, we

are inviting everyone who is interested in Dignity & Respect to **join our Reference Group**. The Reference Group is virtual group of like-minded people that I will send relevant updates and information to. Members of the group can also forward information through me or ask for support from other members. In the future we might even have an online discussion list.

Finally, we are considering a number of other projects for the future. For example, we are thinking about putting in a bid for the Dignity Innovation Fund together with Manchester City Council to offer volunteers training and equipment to deliver Jabadao exercises and activities in local care homes.

For more information or to join our Reference Group, please contact Valeska on 0161 214 3981 or by email to [valeska@blackhealthagency.org.uk](mailto:valeska@blackhealthagency.org.uk)



## Sign up to become a Dignity Champion today!

Do you believe that being treated with dignity is a basic human right, not an optional extra? If the answer is yes and you want to help Manchester achieve care services that are compassionate and person centred, then you already are a dignity champion.

However, if you would like more

information on how you could promote dignity or would like to become more active in the campaign you can join us and become an official Dignity Champion online at [www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/dignityincare/BecomingADignityChampion/](http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/dignityincare/BecomingADignityChampion/)

Alternatively, contact Valeska on 0161 214 3981 for a paper copy of the joining form.

## Dignity Award for Manchester 2009

Currently we are reviewing the entries for the LINK Dignity Award for Manchester 2009. The deadline for applications closed on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and we have received nominations from a great variety of sources.

The award is an opportunity for service users to thank and honour those individuals or services that have ensured you have been treated with dignity

and respect over the past year. It is also an opportunity for service providers to get recognition for the great work you do.



The Dignity & Respect Campaign Group will choose a winner and announce their decision in February. The winning service or individual will then get

a special feature in our Newsletter so watch out for this.

## What is the Manchester Local Involvement Network (LINK)?

A network bringing together local people and organisations who want to improve health and social care services in the city.

To find out more or to register contact the Manchester LINK Support Team on 0161 214 3909 or e-mail: [manchesterink@blackhealthagency.org.uk](mailto:manchesterink@blackhealthagency.org.uk).