



Manchester LINK

ISSUE 7

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Joan Bakewell and football star vow to stamp out Adult Abuse

A new campaign to stamp out adult abuse, has been endorsed by Joan Bakewell and former Manchester City footballer Alex Williams. Manchester Safeguarding Adults Board are launching the campaign to raise awareness of Adult Abuse, as well as let victims know that help is at hand.

Speaking at the event, at Manchester City Stadium, former goalkeeper Alex Williams said: "All adults have the right to live their life free from neglect or abuse -the abuse of vulnerable adults is criminal."

In 2007/2008 there were 486 investigations of adult abuse across Manchester City with an anticipated rise of 20% in 2008/2009, which includes physical abuse as well as neglect, financial and emotional abuse.

Victims include people with mental health problems, those with physical disabilities as well as the elderly.

Broadcaster and champion of the elderly Joan Bakewell said: "Many people

don't realise that the elderly and other vulnerable members of our society can be subject to many different kinds of abuse, including emotional, physical, sexual and financial abuse and neglect."

She added: "The aim of this campaign is to raise people's awareness of the potential for this abuse and ensure that they know how to help to prevent it taking place.

It is essential that support and protection is available."

Councillor Basil Curley, Executive Member for Adult Social Care for Manchester City Council said: "The abuse of vulnerable members of our community is something that should never be tolerated. Raising awareness is key to

stamping out abuse and I really hope more people come forward as a result of the campaign."

If you or someone you know is a victim of adult abuse call 0161 255 8250 (Adult Social Care) or 0161 872 5050 (Greater Manchester Police)



Caroline Marsh, Chair of MSAB and Director of Adult Social Care, Manchester City Council
 Alex Williams, Executive Manager of City In The Community, and former Manchester City Goalkeeper
 Cllr Basil Curley, Executive Member for Adult Social Care for Manchester City Council

LINKs Update

Speak Your Mind

Have you got something to say about Mental health and Social Care Services in Manchester?



The Manchester Mental Health Watchdog 'Speak Your Mind' Event being held on the 24th March 10:30 - 3:30 at the Mechanics Centre, will give you the chance to express your views of the services which are provided, and what needs to be improved.

The event will consist of a presentation on Mental Health Services
Round table discussions, where

you can have your voice heard

The event will finish off with a 'Question Time' panel of Mental Health and Social Care Professionals including
Tracey Ellery - Deputy Chief Executive Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust
Craig Harris - Head of Mental Health Joint Commissioning
Caroline Marsh - Director of Adult Social Care
Brian Burke - Rethink North West Area Manager
Dave Williams - Carers Forum

If you would like to book a place, or submit a question for the panel please contact the Manchester LINK Support Team on 0161 214 3909 or email danny@blackhealthagency.org.uk

Prescription charges – Abolish them altogether?

Last year Gordon Brown announced the abolition of prescription charges for cancer patients from 1st April this year. A review on plans to abolish charges for patients with long term conditions for in England will report in the summer.

The review has brought responses from a wide range of organisations – who want charges abolished altogether.

The Socialist Health Association argues: "We do not think the way forward is for a list of deserving and undeserving illnesses. We think the time has come to abolish prescription charges in England. The principle that healthcare should be free at the point of delivery is a very sound one, and governments repeatedly pledge their support to it. But for many

poor people, these pledges are not reflected in their experience."

Their view is shared by doctors from the British Medical Association whose response to the review says: "The current exemption categories are often illogical and unfair; extending these categories to include those with long-term conditions would simply add to the inequities in the system and invariably create a new set of arbitrary 'winners' and 'losers'."

"The BMA's position is that the Department of Health should abolish prescription charges in England altogether, as has already happened in Wales and will happen shortly in Northern Ireland and Scotland."

What do you think? Have you got comments you would like the LINK to pass on?



Opportunities for LINK members

Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) Visits: HELP MAKE SURE SERVICES ARE CLEAN AND HEALTHY

Each hospital has a Patient Environment Action Team - that brings together staff and lay people to help ensure that patients have a good environment for their treatment and recovery. The teams look, in particular at cleanliness and infection control.

Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust have contacted the Manchester LINK to ask if they would like to nominate a representative to carry

out these inspections. They are holding their inspections on 24th March 2009, Laureate House; 25th March 2009, Edale House; 26th March 2009, Park House.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact the Manchester LINK Support Organisation on 0161 214 3909 or Email: manchester-link@blackhealthagency.org.uk



Spotlight on Social Care: Consultation on the Future of Assessment

Since *Putting People First* has kick-started the ongoing transformation of adult social care and set the agenda for giving people greater choice and control over their care and support, concerns have been raised about ineffective assessment procedures. People have expressed for example an increasing frustration at having to provide the same information to different organisations and professionals involved in their care and the lack of joint-up working between different agencies.



The Department of Health is addressing this situation by developing a Common Assessment Framework for Adults that is to set rules for improved information sharing around multi-disciplinary assessment and care planning. They argue that an effective way of sharing information between different professionals and organisations will increase the quality and effectiveness of care as well as being more cost effective. However, while

sharing the right information at the right time has advantages for the quality of a person's care and support arrangements, there are also potential disadvantages such as the risk from unauthorised access or the misuse of information.

Therefore, the Department of Health is currently asking you for your views on how exactly assessment and information sharing should work. They want to know, for instance, whether you think information sharing is a good idea or why you don't think it is, who you think information should be shared with and how, etc.

The consultation closes on **17 April 2009** so make sure you get your views in before then.

I am available on 0161 214 3981 or at valeska@blackhealthagency.org.uk to give you further information, send you a paper copy of the feedback form or help you complete it. Alternatively, you can download the consultation booklet and submit your responses online at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_093438.

“concerns have been raised about ineffective assessment procedures”

Local News

Out of Hours Provider to Launch Judicial Review Against PCT



Manchester's GP out of hours provider is to issue judicial review proceedings against a primary care trust after it missed out on a contract to continue providing the services.

Mastercall Out of Hours Services hopes to force Manchester PCT to explain its decision making process and disclose in public the reasons behind its decision to ap-

point a joint venture between Go to Doc and Harmoni as the provider. Mastercall had operated the contract since 1996.

Mastercall had won awards for its clinical performance standards, one as recently as October last year, which was presented by health secretary Alan Johnson

HSJ 16.02.09

Volunteers wanted

Do you want to make a real difference to your local community? Do you have a desire to learn and pass on information? Do you want to work in a friendly environment with other community volunteers?

If so, why not join the Healthy Communities Collaborative project. We educate people within the areas of Cheetham Hill, Charlestown and Harpurhey about the early signs and symptoms of

breast, bowel and lung cancer. The aim of the project is to encourage people with the symptoms of cancer to present to their GP sooner, to ensure earlier detection and treatment. The earlier these cancers are caught the better the chances of survival.

If you are interested, please call Carole Cohen on:
0161 – 230 2690
07813311789

NHS
Manchester

Public Health Development Service

GP surgeries set for Sainsbury's



Sainsbury's has been contacted by Doctors interested in opening practices in their stores—following on from the surgery that opened in Heaton Park in Manchester.

A spokesman said "The scheme at Heaton Park has been a real success with over 1,500 consultations provided to patients since March 2008".

Dr Laurence Buckman, chairman of the British Medical Association's GPs Committee (GPC), said: "It seems these practices will be run by GPs as branch surgeries, so they have the potential to make primary care more accessible to patients. We will be interested to see what the uptake is."

Channel 4 news

MACC Management Board

Opportunity

Manchester Alliance for Community Care is a thriving voluntary sector development agency working in the fields of health, social care and wellbeing. We wish to recruit new members to our Board of Management, to bring fresh approaches to the future direction of our work.

Applicants should have an interest in the development of the health, social care and wellbeing economy in Man-

chester, be connected to the real experiences of users of health and social care services and their carers and have "on the ground" experience within the voluntary and community sector. If you can bring expertise in governance / organisational management / tendering for contracts / demonstrating impact / marketing, are keen to develop new skills and can commit an average of one day per month to MACC, please email angel@macc.org.uk for an application pack. For more information visit www.macc.org.uk or to discuss the role, contact Mike Wild, Director, on 0161 834 9823.



Award-winning mental health service extends

An award winning project to identify and support offenders with mental health and drug-related problems is being launched in Manchester.

The new service will allow the police and courts to call on expert assessments for people in custody so that they can quickly be put in contact with specialist services, while past offenders will receive additional, targeted support in the community.

A pilot of the £500,000 initiative, which is funded by NHS Manchester and provided by Greater Manchester West

Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, has already won the National Nursing Times Mental Health Award 2008 for successfully addressing mental health and drug-related problems.

The service will be run by a new multi-disciplinary team including mental health and social care professionals and a probation officer.

The service is expected to work in partnership with a caseload of around 150 people and will be launched across the city in February 2009

**Mental Health
NHS Foundation
Trust, has
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2008**

CATS to cut waiting

times for patients

Two mobile treatment units are travelling around Greater Manchester as part of a £172m private health contract to cut waiting times.

The units will use five sites in shop and leisure centre car parks, with two more sites to be added in the next few months.

Health chiefs want 80,000 patients to

be assessed and treated at the units, run by private company Care UK, each year until 2016.

The Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service - CATS - will carry out tests and perform minor operations for orthopaedic, ear nose and throat, gynaecology and urology conditions.

The contract is designed to help health trusts meet tough targets to start treating everyone within 18 weeks of their first visit to their GP.

HSJ



National News

Shock as care services for older people are cut

A £150m cut in spending on social care services for older people in England was revealed on 10th February by the Department of Health's information centre.

It said local authorities spent £8.77bn on care for vulnerable pensioners in 2007-08, a cut of 1.7% in real terms on the year before.

The cut came before councils began wrestling with financial pressures caused by the economic recession, which has increased demand for council services and reduced income from rents and charges.

The Local Government Association said the slight fall in real-terms spending should not be taken as evidence that fewer people were being cared for, or that their care was substandard.

Phil Hope, the care services minister, said: "Over the last 10 years, spend on all adult social services has increased by 50% in real terms. We are committed to making sure older people get high quality care, and the forthcoming care and support green paper will make proposals on how they system can be further reformed and improved so it is fit for the 21st century."#

Guardian 10.02.09

A £150m cut in spending on social care services for older people in England was re-

Health watchdog handover is on 'red risk'

Crucial staffing and financial decisions regarding the handover from the Healthcare Commission to the Care Quality Commission are still unresolved just two months before the new body takes over.

The Healthcare Commission has identified work around its closure as a "red risk" - the most severe alert - because a number of projects are "not yet defined, resourced or initiated", papers from a

commissioners' meeting last week reveal.

The most serious concerns include preparation of the final accounts, information and records management and the decommissioning of estates.

The commission is due to release 15 separate reports between now and 31 March, when it will be absorbed by the CQC.

HSJ 05.02.09



Government Consults on new Race Equality Strategy

The past decade has seen real progress in tackling race inequality. However, we all know that serious challenges still remain.

The Government is seeking views on priorities for its future work and strategy to tackle race inequalities. They are interested in hearing peoples' views on a

range of issues.

The consultation runs for a 12-week period ending on 18th May 2009.

For a copy of the consultation document go to <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/tacklingraceinequalities>



Dates for your diary

Are We on the Road to Wellbeing?

The Health & Wellbeing Network are organising a wellbeing event for the VCS, to be held at St Thomas centre on 8th April 2009.

This is an event for all VCS and statutory sector workers and organisations whose work impacts on the health and wellbeing of people in Manchester.

This event provides an opportu-

nity to come and think with others about how to improve the overall wellbeing of more people in Manchester and get some support for your own wellbeing through the taster sessions!

Contact Pauline@macc.org.uk for more information or to book a place.

Life After Stroke Conference

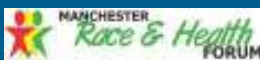
NHS Manchester, Manchester City Council and the Stroke Association are working in partnership to host the above conference. It will be focusing on long-term support for those affected by stroke and implementing the National Stroke Strategy.

The conference will be held at City of Manchester Stadium, Sportcity, Manchester on Thursday 23rd April 2009, 9.15am – 3.30pm.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Val Bayliss-Brideaux on 0161 217 4311 (if there is no response, please leave your contact name and number) or by email on talking.health@manchester.nhs.uk with your name, contact details and any dietary requirements.

NHS
Manchester

Got an event you
want to promote?
Send us details on
[doggett@blackhealth
agency.org.uk](mailto:doggett@blackhealthagency.org.uk)



'The Changing Profile of Health Services in Manchester'

Manchester Race & Health Forum & Manchester BME Network are hosting a FREE joint event on Tuesday 17 March

It will take place between 12:30pm and 3:30pm with lunch included and will be held at the Phil Martin Centre, 137-139 Princess Road, Manchester, M14 4RE.

The event will be of interest to

anyone interested in finding out more about the changes taking place within Health Services in Manchester and also interested in finding out about the work of Manchester BME Network & Manchester Race & Health Forum.

If you are interested in attending this event please reply to Angela at MRHF Tel: 0161 872 4600

Consultations

The following consultations are still ongoing but will be closing shortly so please make sure to get your views in now:

DoH 0844 Consultation

This is about whether the use of 084 numbers to access services provided by the NHS should be prohibited. A consultation booklet is available in GP surgeries and online at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_091879 and closes on 30 March 2009.

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

This is about the CQCs proposals for reviews in 2009/10 and the closing date is 25 March 2009. To find out more visit www.cqc.org.uk or telephone 03000 616161.

DoH Common Assessment Framework for Adults Consultation

This is about improvements to assessment and information sharing procedures and closes 17 April 2009. Please see the 'Spotlight on Social Care' article in this newsletter for more information or visit http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_093438

RNIB Consultation.

This is about the NHS making information accessible for visually impaired people. This has serious impacts, from missing out on getting timely medical treatments to taking medicines without knowing what warning is on the label. The information will be used to build and deliver a new RNIB campaign to make health information safe and reliable for patients with sight problems. For more information contact Hugh on the Campaigns hotline on 020 7391 2123 or email campaigns@rnib.org.uk

“concerns have been raised about ineffective assessment procedures”



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Your Local Involvement Network is your independent monitor of local health and social care services - Providing a voice for service users and enabling you to shape the future of the services you receive.

Your LINK Team is:

Nik Barstow - LINK Manager

Valeska Matziol - Community Engagement Officer

Lydia Hurford - Community Engagement Officer

Danny Gough - Community Engagement Officer

Anthony Doggett - LINK Administrator

Visit the Manchester LINK website:
www.manchesterlink.co.uk