



News Update  
October 09 – November 09

*‘Keeping you informed on health and social care issues’*

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### Council Strives to Improve Services

A local authority is rolling out a raft of measures to bring better services to people in villages and hamlets, rural issues are now rising up the agenda. A task-group is helping South Lakeland District Council better represent local residents outside South Lakeland’s major towns.

The longer-term aim is to ensure services are better co-ordinated to meet the needs of rural people. It covers bus services, health services, affordable housing policies and leisure opportunities. The council said rural affairs were being driven further up the agenda as it championed service issues with other organisations to ensure local residents were not overlooked.

For more information visit:  
<http://www.rsonline.org.uk/services/council-strives-for-better-rural-services.html>

### “Drink, Drugs and Children don’t mix”.

Cumbria Local Family Justice Council are holding their Fifth Annual Conference at Kendal Town Hall on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from 10am to 4.30pm.

This year they are looking at the problems alcohol and drugs can cause for young people – either because they use them themselves or because their parents use them. Topics to be addressed will include Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, the care of mothers and babies born addicted to substances, the treatment of children using drugs and hair strand testing.

There is no charge for this conference and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

For more information or to book a place email: [laura.mcaulay@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:laura.mcaulay@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk).

### Planning for Healthy Communities

A one day conference on delivering improved public health outcomes for communities in Cumbria through effective planning and control of land use and development.

The conference will be delivered in partnership by Cumbria Planning Training Scheme, NHS Cumbria and Furness Partnership, the local strategic partnership for Barrow and Furness.

Who should attend? Professionals working in any field related to land use planning, development management, urban regeneration, public health and sustainability.

The conference is being held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Barrow

in Furness and will run from 9.30am until 4.00pm with lunch and refreshments being provided.

For more information contact Helen Houston on 01229 876363.

## **Fuel Poverty**

Age Concern supported by the Fuel Poverty Steering Group are holding a free session on all issues related to fuel poverty. This session is aimed at information and advice workers and financial assessors.

The session aims to provide the latest knowledge regarding:

- Fuel tariffs
- Handling fuel debt
- Access to grants including grants for heating, insulation and other energy efficiency measures

Places can be booked by contacting Kristen Stephen Tel: 01946 66669 Email: [quality@ageconcern-nwc.org.uk](mailto:quality@ageconcern-nwc.org.uk)

All bookings must be received by the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Cumbria and Lancashire Public Health Networks Events**

Smokefree Mental Health 'Re-visited' event is being held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith.

This one day best practice event will be of value to all Cumbria health professionals and service users working in mental health to improve smokefree practices.

ASH Tobacco Advocacy Training one-off training event to launch the Action on Smoking & Health (ASH) Advocacy Toolkit is being held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from 9.30am – 4.00pm at the Westmorland County Agricultural Society.

This training event is open to active members of tobacco control alliances in Cumbria and Lancashire.

Both are free events with lunch and refreshments being provided.

To book either event or view their full CPD programme visit [www.clph.net](http://www.clph.net) or call the Network office on 01772 777002/3.

## **North West Healthy Living Network AGM**

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 Cumbria Outdoors, for the second time, hosted the Annual General Meeting of the North West Healthy Living Network. 33 delegates, all representatives of Healthy Living Centres and Initiatives throughout the North West of England arrived at Hawse End Centre, travelling from Carlisle in the north and from as far south as the Wirral, plus everywhere in between.

The North West Network is part of the National Healthy Living Alliance. The network was formed in 2001 through all projects receiving New Opportunities funding, it remained active through meeting on a quarterly basis, sharing good practice as well as problems. The strength of the network is that it is made up of people who deliver projects, those people who interface with the projects' beneficiaries.

Approximately 3 years ago, the network decided to work together in order to seek funding to continue their projects, as the initial funding was drawing to a close.

This resulted in 27 projects being awarded with Big Lottery Wellbeing funding to either continue, develop or begin new projects. In order to receive Big Lottery Wellbeing funding, projects were required to deliver on one, two or all of the three following areas – Healthy Eating, Physical Activity and Mental Health. All projects were also required to be delivered in areas identified on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The All\*Star project recruits participants from the identified areas in Allerdale.

So, with typical Lakeland weather, dark, damp yet still beautiful, this year's AGM was opened by Julie Owens, Public Health Specialist with NHS Cumbria. Julie's presentation focused around the health challenges facing Cumbria and she talked about the locally held perception that the Lakes are for 'well off visitors' not for local communities to enjoy. Julie went on to discuss the barriers to access and participation. During the Q&A session the delegates explored the issue that the challenges and barriers are the same throughout the North West region, whether rural or urban.

For more details of Cumbria Outdoors and/or project based work, please contact:  
E: [Deborah.hunter@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:Deborah.hunter@cumbriacc.gov.uk).  
T: 01768 812280.

For more details about the North West Healthy Living, please see the contact details below:  
E: [wellbeing@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeing@stockport.gov.uk). T: 07800 618511. W:  
[www.healthylivingnorthwest.org.uk](http://www.healthylivingnorthwest.org.uk).

### **Multiple Sclerosis Conference**

The MS Society is organising a conference which will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at the Lancaster House Hotel.

The Conference is free and is aimed predominately at those who may come into contact with people affected by Multiple Sclerosis though the content would also be useful for individuals affected by MS.

In addition, the theme for the day is "Diversity, meeting individual need" and so the day would also be of benefit to those who have an interest in independent living, personalisation, diversity, patient and public involvement, patient centred care or neurology service provision/commissioning.

To book your place call 020 8438 0941 or e-mail: [conferenceadmin@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:conferenceadmin@mssociety.org.uk).

### **Transforming Community Equipment Services (TCES)**

Cumbria has become one of the locations for the development of alternative arrangements for the provision of small items of equipment – "aids to daily living". This will affect all Occupational therapy and District Nursing equipment below the value of £100 per item.

Under the guidance of the Department of Health, the "TCES" Project is now underway, and is being project managed in the Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment service by Catherine Morley. The project will involve partnership working with colleagues in health services and will aim to deliver a "Retail Model" for small equipment provision in early/mid 2010.

The Retail Model will replace the existing arrangement of providing these items from established warehouses located in Cumbria – these will instead focus on provision of complex packages of equipment. The Department of Health have proposed the "Retail model" nationally to meet the rising demand for equipment services as demographic pressures increase and there is greater need for care at home.

The model proposes the development of a wider marketplace for "simple aids to daily living" so that users have greater choice and flexibility in accessing these products. We are already witnessing the wider availability of equipment in local and national retail chains.

For Occupational Therapy teams and other prescribers, the direct provision of equipment will be replaced with the issuing of a "Prescription". This will be redeemed by the service user at an accredited retailer who will provide the necessary equipment from an agreed catalogue. There will be opportunity to compare products and upgrade should this be required, to an alternative, but still within the category of equipment identified to meet the need.

This transformational change is now underway and there are 4 working groups set up to work through the detail and deliver the new procedures:

- General needs assessment group
- Hospital discharge group
- Retailer group
- Commissioning & finance group

## **Cumbria County Council's Adult Social Care News:**

### **Personal Budgets are coming**

It is an exciting time for Adult Social Care from the 16<sup>th</sup> November; we will be implementing self directed support through the use of personal budgets. Our aim is to offer service users receiving community based services:

- an up front indication of the resources available to meet their assessed social care needs
- a person fronted approach with service users more involved in planning their own support
- greater choice and control of the support they receive
- a shift in responsibility from the council to the service user.

From the 16<sup>th</sup> November, we will be:

- continuing to provide person centred assessments
- confirming with service users their assessed needs and an indicative amount
- enabling service users to be involved in developing support plans
- informing service users of their personal budgets
- offering service users the options of direct payments, so they can arrange their own support, arranging services on their behalf or a combination of these.

This approach will be used for all new referrals for community based services to

older adults, physical disabilities and learning disabilities teams.

It will also be used for existing service users receiving community based services when their cases are reviewed. Service users in residential care who want to live in the community can also use this approach. Existing service users interested in self directed support can request a review at any time, if they think their needs have changed. If their needs have not changed, they should wait for their scheduled review and we will give them information about self directed support so they can prepare for this.

Reviews of service users in long term residential care will be dealt with using a separate arrangement.

Existing arrangements, including the offer of direct payments, will continue to be used with carers and service users of community mental health teams, drug and alcohol teams, occupational therapists and rehabilitation officers for vision impairment. Service users can also use their personal budget for occupational therapy equipment.

For more information you can visit our website:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/adultsocialcare/iCT/>

Peter Knock, Public Information Manager  
Adult Social Care  
Email: [peter.knock@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.knock@cumbriacc.gov.uk)

## **NHS Cumbria News**

### **Swine Flu**

As we reported in the last newsletter, the latest information on Swine Flu can be found on our website:

<http://www.cumbria.nhs.uk/News/SwineFlu.a.spx>

or on the National Pandemic Flu Service website: [www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu)  
Information 0800 1 513 513  
Treatment 0800 1 513 100

## Swine Flu Vaccine

The first batches of the vaccine for Swine Flu are expected to be available in October and approximately 50 million doses are expected by the end of the year, with more following after that.

The government has ordered enough vaccine for the whole population. It will focus on those at the greatest risk first. The vaccine will initially be given to the following groups, in this order:

- People aged between 6 months and 65 years who usually get the seasonal flu jab
- Pregnant women, subject to licensing. The European Medicines Agency, who license the vaccine will indicate whether it can be given to all pregnant women or whether it should only be offered at certain stages of pregnancy
- People who live with those whose immune systems are compromised such as cancer patients or people with HIV/AIDS
- People aged 65 and over in the seasonal flu vaccine at-risk group

Frontline health and social care workers will also be offered the vaccine as a matter of priority.

Details of the vaccination programme will be released in the coming weeks.

## Changes4Life in Cumbria

NHS Cumbria is working together with partners in north Cumbria to help families find out how they can Change4Life. An eight week community messaging campaign is beginning on CFM radio's breakfast show on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October suggesting exciting ways in which families can be more active and eat healthily.

As part of this campaign a Cumbrian family will adopt one of the eight 'Top Tips' each

week and report back to listeners on their progress. Change4Life 'Top Tips for Kids' include:

- Sugar swaps
- Meal time
- Me size meals
- Snack check
- Five a day
- Cut back fat
- 60 active minutes
- Up and about

This project is funded by NHS Cumbria, Cumbria Sport and Carlisle Leisure. Further information and advice is available on: [www.cfmradio.com/change](http://www.cfmradio.com/change)

## End of Life workshops begin

NHS Cumbria's Conversations for Life workshops began on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October and hope to encourage people to talk to their loved ones about their final or future care wishes. Eleven workshops are being held at venues across Cumbria to teach and discuss with people how best to broach the subject of death or terminal care which are often treated as taboos.

People who wish to attend the workshops need to register first. This can be done by visiting: [www.cumbriaconversationsforlife.nhs.uk/workshops.html](http://www.cumbriaconversationsforlife.nhs.uk/workshops.html) or by calling 01539 722323 or emailing [events@cumbriaconversationsforlife.nhs.uk](mailto:events@cumbriaconversationsforlife.nhs.uk)

## High level specification for children and young people's health services

The plan for the delivery of joined-up health services for children and young people in Cumbria has been published. NHS Cumbria's High Level Specification sets out how the Primary Care Trust intends to commission better services for the county's children from one lead health provider. The change will make it easier for younger patients who currently have to navigate

several different NHS Trusts when trying to access treatment. The document can be viewed at: <http://tinyurl.com/y953zsw>.

Partners in Cumbria's Children's Trust are also recruiting children and young people between 8 and 18 years to help them choose the lead provider. For more information, contact Jayne Goodfellow on 01539 797878 or join us on a range of social media sites!

Blog: [www.channelforcumbria.blogspot.com](http://www.channelforcumbria.blogspot.com)

Forum: [www.channel-c.findtalk.net](http://www.channel-c.findtalk.net)

Facebook: [www.profile.to/ellemcgreggor](http://www.profile.to/ellemcgreggor)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/@Channel\\_C](http://www.twitter.com/@Channel_C)

Bebo: [www.bebo.com/ellemc143](http://www.bebo.com/ellemc143)

### **Another 27,500 New NHS Dental places planned**

NHS Cumbria plans to invest over £1.5 million in new NHS dental care for people in Millom, Keswick, Carlisle, Barrow and Penrith. Plans to provide new dental places across Cumbria have been put out to tender with a provider or providers expected to be chosen early next year. The number of new places will be split across the county with around 5,000 places planned for Keswick, Barrow, Millom and Penrith and 7,500 for Carlisle.

Once the contracts have been awarded, dental places in these areas will become available over the following two years. This follows on from the further 37,500 places which have already been established this year in West Cumbria and Kendal. For details of local services, or to register on the dental database you can collect a form from your local GP or dentist or you can visit <http://tinyurl.com/yabpv3f>.

### **NHS Cumbria in the black again**

NHS Cumbria has spent over £750 million keeping the county healthy and has ended the financial year in the black. According to the primary care trust's annual report for

2008/09, NHS Cumbria finished the financial year with a £233,000 surplus after spending over £750 million on commissioning and running health services across the county.

This is the second year that the trust has achieved a surplus after it inherited a £36.7 million deficit and spiralling recurrent financial problems in 2006/07 from previous primary care trusts which operated in the county prior to 2006. Family doctors and other frontline health professionals now control around 60 per cent of the health budget in the county – making sure more money goes to providing services, closer to where people live in line with NHS Cumbria's Closer to Home strategy. For more details of our financial performance, you can visit <http://tinyurl.com/ya9szs2>.

### **NHS Cumbria appoints LIFT partner**

Following an evaluation process over the summer, NHS Cumbria has appointed Express LIFT Investments Limited (ELIL) to form a Local Improvement Finance Trust ("LIFT") company to finance and redevelop the county's ageing community hospitals.

ELIL will now work with NHS Cumbria to finalise plans and manage the re-build of Cumbria's community hospitals. The LIFT model will also allow a range of other buildings to be procured, from small GP practices to one-stop health centres.

LIFT establishes a public-private partnership company (LIFTCo) which works with local organisations to provide modern, tailor-made health buildings, involving the private sector where they can add most experience and value. Most importantly, it will provide investment in integrated primary care services in areas where patients most need it.

The re-building of Cumbria's once-doomed community hospitals is a central part of the primary care trust's drive to provide more health services, closer to where people live. Plans for Brampton, Cockermouth and

Millom are already in development; with plans for Alston, Keswick, Maryport, Penrith, and Wigton hospitals set to follow.

For more information on ELIL, please visit [www.elil.co.uk](http://www.elil.co.uk).

If you would like further information, please contact Clare Poulter, Interim LIFT Programme Director on 07770 730338 or email [clare.poulter@cumbriapct.nhs.uk](mailto:clare.poulter@cumbriapct.nhs.uk)].

## **Around the Localities**

### ***North and East Cumbria***

#### **Penrith Health Improvements**

Improvements planned later this year at Penrith Hospital were announced in the middle of September. A new assessment unit will give patients faster access to diagnostic tests while a shift from hospital to community based care will save more people from being admitted to hospital unnecessarily. The package of improvements is the next phase in NHS Cumbria's Closer to Home strategy which was publicly consulted on last year. An extra £500,000 has been invested by NHS Cumbria in improved health services in Eden.

Thanks to improvements made so far, avoidable hospital admissions at Penrith have been dramatically reduced with fewer than half the hospital's beds now occupied. In line with the Closer to Home strategy, 21 of the hospital's 49 beds will be removed from April next year, freeing up more nurses and health staff to deliver care in people's homes. As part of the transition process, the beds will be mothballed at the end of this year – giving clinicians the ability to test the new arrangements fully and reopen them quickly if required. We're working with Cumbria County Council to set up a Neighbourhood Forum event on November 24<sup>th</sup> to look at these and other local health issues. A set of FAQs about the changes

are available from Anna Scamans (contact below).

#### **Reiver House opens its doors**

Reiver House in Carlisle has celebrated nearly a year of success by holding an open day and official opening. Reiver House is managed by NHS Cumbria as a step-up-step-down unit and is located next to the Cumberland Infirmary. It came into operation in November 2008 following NHS Cumbria's Closer to Home consultation.

The unit provides assessments, minor treatment and rehabilitative care closer to where people live, for patients who do not need acute care. It allows GPs to directly admit some patients who need extra care which cannot be managed at home, but do not need an acute hospital bed. Similar facilities are also running in acute hospital locations in Whitehaven, Barrow and Kendal. Each step-up-step-down unit offers full nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy support.

<p>Your local lead for Public Engagement in Eden and Carlisle is Anna Scamans. Anna can be reached on 0778 551 8520 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:Anna.scamans@cumbriapct.nhs.uk">Anna.scamans@cumbriapct.nhs.uk</a></p>
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### ***South Cumbria***

#### **Primary Care Assessment Service celebrates a year of success**

NHS Cumbria's Primary Care Assessment Service (PCAS) based at Westmorland General Hospital in Kendal is celebrating its first birthday this month. The service has now seen 15,955 patients since it opened in August 2008.

PCAS offers patients the chance to have more diagnostic tests and treatment closer to where they live, without needing to be admitted to an acute hospital bed. Based inside the hospital, both GPs and Nurse

Practitioners are responsible for running the unit. An average of over 1,100 patients each month in the last year have visited the unit for various tests such as chest x-rays, tests for Deep Vein Thrombosis and blood tests following referrals from their GP. Patients who need to visit PCAS with an emergency or minor injury can also book an appointment in advance.

Because PCAS is run by GPs, the more personalised care patients receive from their own family doctor follows them into the hospital.

Your local lead for Public Engagement in Furness and South Lakeland is Jayne Goodfellow. Jayne can be reached on 07796 993 802 or e-mail: [Jayne.goodfellow@cumbriapct.nhs.uk](mailto:Jayne.goodfellow@cumbriapct.nhs.uk)

## **West Cumbria**

### **Allerdale trials food scheme for people with Coeliac**

NHS Cumbria is piloting a new scheme so that people with coeliac disease living in Allerdale will be able to pick up their gluten free foods from their local community pharmacy without the need for a prescription. Usually people with coeliac disease are given a prescription from their GP for gluten free products which can be incorporated into their diet. There is no cure for coeliac disease, but the symptoms can be kept under control by eating a strict gluten free diet.

From Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October people with coeliac disease in Allerdale will be able to go to their local community pharmacy or to collect these specialist foods.

### **Chance to support community health unit**

NHS Cumbria is looking for members of the public to support a GP-led unit in Whitehaven. NHS Cumbria's Copeland Unit

based at West Cumberland Hospital was officially opened on 9<sup>th</sup> September and has been operational since 5<sup>th</sup> July.

In order to ensure that the views of patients and the public are included in the ongoing development of the unit, a new support group is being set up. Members of this group will be able to voice opinions and suggestions as well as helping to raise money for the unit through fundraising.

The Copeland Unit offers patients assessment, treatment and rehabilitative care in a community setting. This care is now delivered by a team of GPs, nurses and therapists as part of the wider community services provided by NHS Cumbria. If anyone has an interest in health care services then this is a chance to get involved. Support will also be available to help.

For more information contact Christine Harrison at NHS Cumbria's Public Engagement Unit on 01900 324244 or email [publicengagement@cumbriapct.nhs.uk](mailto:publicengagement@cumbriapct.nhs.uk)

Your local lead for Public Engagement in Allerdale and Copeland is Christine Harrison. Christine can be reached on 0778 557 8574 or e-mail: [Christine.harrison@cumbriapct.nhs.uk](mailto:Christine.harrison@cumbriapct.nhs.uk)

## **National Health and Wellbeing News**

### **New and Emerging Roles in Dementia**

Understanding and exploring new and emerging roles and their potential learning and development needs are important aspects of the transformation of adult social care.

Skills for Care have developed the second in a series of publications that set out new and emerging roles in a concise way. Each document in this series will help you to assess the types of roles you might need to

develop, work with or commission over the next two years.

This publication looks at new roles in the dementia workforce. The publication also looks at examples of dementia training for care staff as well as a multi-disciplinary team approach in Nottingham. Download the publication at: [http://northwest.skillsforcare.org.uk/news/news\\_archive/New\\_and\\_emerging\\_roles\\_in\\_dementia.aspx](http://northwest.skillsforcare.org.uk/news/news_archive/New_and_emerging_roles_in_dementia.aspx)

### **New Career Pathways Pages Go Live**

Skills for Care are delighted to announce the launch of an exciting and interactive careers section on their website.

The pages are intended to help both potential recruits to the sector and existing social care workers looking for progression. There is information on 'what is social care', 'starting in social care' and 'developing your career', as well as a chance to watch videos of people working in the care sector, plot your future career and read about the wide variety of careers.

Visit the pages at: [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/careerpathways](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/careerpathways)

### **Healthy Communities Community of Practice Launch**

Staying healthy in a recession – upcoming CoP discussion – How is the recession impacting on the health of our local communities? What are councils and their partners doing to help the public stay healthy during the downturn? The Healthy Communities Community of Practice (CoP) has been established to provide a forum for anyone dedicated to promoting good health and reducing health inequalities.

A community of practice is a network of individuals with common challenges or interests. A CoP provides a valuable tool for councils and their partners to share good

practice, spread information and aid improvement throughout the public sector. Using the CoP, members will share ideas, information, knowledge and good practice. This will help find solutions while expanding knowledge, thus promoting healthy communities for all. To find out more about the Healthy Communities CoP, contact: [Hannah.deacon@idea.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.deacon@idea.gov.uk) or [Julia.sherfield@idea.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.sherfield@idea.gov.uk) or visit: <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/welcome.do>

### **NYA Health Activities Resource Pack – now available**

Health Activities Resource Pack (HARP) is the group work education resource for all who work with young people around health. The pack includes a briefing booklet full of helpful background information to help busy staff get up to speed, an activity pack with over 60 activities tested by young people covering the broad areas of young people's health – healthy lifestyle; mental and emotional wellbeing; substance use; and healthy relationships and sex – and an additional photo pack, all captured in hard copy and on disc. For more information visit: <http://www.nya.org.uk/information/100093/109455/142777/harp/>

### **Department of Health Third Sector Funding Information**

The Department of Health has published a funding information pack on the Third Sector Investment Programme: The pack is designed to provide third sector organisations with information to enable them to decide if the funding stream is applicable to both their organisation and the proposed activity they are seeking funding for. Priority proposals for the 'Innovation Excellence and Service Development Fund 2010-11' will include those that have a clear focus on targeting the most disadvantaged children and young people aged between 11 and 19 years old. For more information visit:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_103016](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_103016).

## **Disability Law Service**

The Disability Law Service is an independent, registered charity, based in London that has provided high quality information and advice to Disabled and Deaf people for over 30 years. It is run by and for disabled people.

DLS provides advice and information in the following areas:

- Disability Discrimination
- Consumer
- Community Care
- Further and Higher Education
- Employment

The charity is able to travel outside of the London area and if there are any groups interested in the 'Community Care Law' training and would like to share the costs with others, then there is an opportunity to do that.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Christine Goodall, National Development Co-ordinator. Tel: 0207 791 9828 or e-mail: [Christine@dls.org.uk](mailto:Christine@dls.org.uk).  
Website: [www.dls.org.uk](http://www.dls.org.uk).

## **Patient Group Views on Angioplasty/Angiography**

PatientView are running a study to obtain feedback on treatment choices, standards of service and quality of care offered to people in the UK with circulatory problems who have undergone angioplasty/angiography.

The closing date for the survey is 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009, if you would like to contribute visit:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jHmehc9H9PDhEncio8Pbpg\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jHmehc9H9PDhEncio8Pbpg_3d_3d)

## **The Framework for Quality Accounts – a consultation on the proposals**

The Department of Health has launched a public consultation on the proposals for the framework for Quality Accounts.

The consultation can be found at: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_105304](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_105304) and will run until Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Details of how to respond to the consultation are included in the consultation documents.

## **Cumbria LINK Work Update**

### **Results from the Online Poll of a Possible Bus Service to the Sands Centre in Carlisle.**

After this subject was discussed at a meeting, the LINK decided to run a poll on its website to ask people if they would be more likely to use facilities at the Sands Centre in Carlisle if a regular bus service stopped there.

It was felt the question should be asked if people are to be entitled to good access to fitness centres and leisure services to improve health and social skills. Also there are plans for the Sands to be extended with a purpose built sports arena and a swimming pool, so access should be a priority.

We closed the poll at the end of August 2009. There was a total of 84 responses with 83 saying yes they would use the Sands more if a regular bus service stopped there.

This would indicate that there is an overwhelming majority who would like a bus service to stop there.

We have written to both Carlisle City Council and Stage Coach about the issue. Carlisle City Council have responded saying "At the present time the Council is exploring the potential for a major development at the

Sands Centre. Should this proceed then public transport will form an important aspect of a "Green Travel Plan". Indeed with the development at Trinity School we will be liaising with the Bus Operators to provide a bus service into that area. This would address many of the concerns raised in your letter."

The council also advised us that they already have plans to undertake some improvements to the subway at Hardwick Circus.

At present we have received no response from Stage Coach.

### **Design workshop with the Carlisle Medical Group**

The Carlisle Medical Group held a design workshop for patients of the 6 GP practises involved in the move of surgeries to the Hilltop Heights site. The aim of the workshop was to present the design and plans for the building and for patients to comment. 10 patients attended the meeting.

Dr Chris Corrigan from the Brunswick House practice and Graham Ogden the project lead from CueDoc Holdings went through the plans floor by floor. It will be a state of the art building with nothing like it being seen in Carlisle before. Services to be provided include minor surgery, an optician, café, play area, and gym. They are looking into the possibility of a dentist and x-ray facilities.

Concerns over transport to the site were raised with Dr Corrigan saying that NHS Cumbria (PCT) are in discussions about the access to the site and there was a promise that it would be resolved. Their aim being that everybody would be able to reach the surgery without having to change busses. They hope to get planning permission by December and if that is the case then work will start by the end of March 2010.

### **Cumbria LINK Governing Body Election Results**

Elections for five places on the Cumbria LINK Governing Body have just taken place and we are pleased to be able to report on the results.

Firstly we were delighted by the number of committed nominees who put themselves forward for election. 7 individuals with a wide range of skill, knowledge, experience and passion stood for the election which concluded on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009. There was an excellent response to the election with a large number of ballot papers returned.

Ballot papers were counted on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October and we are now able to announce that the new Members of the Cumbria LINK Governing Body are:

Jim Bradley  
Chris Abbot  
Jane Thompson  
Paul Brown  
David Singleton Edwards

The results of the election will be formally announced at the public meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Whitehaven Civic Hall.

Our new Governing Body Members bring with them a range of skills and knowledge that include project management, financial management, working with service users and carers, fundraising, innovation, working with networks, partnership working, business planning, business leadership, patient and public involvement in health, IT, emergency response, cancer services, charitable trusts and knowledge of the NHS. Above all they all bring enthusiasm and commitment.

We look forward to working together to continue to develop of the work of Cumbria LINK across all sectors of health and social care and achieve real results in improving services.

Please contact the Communication team at Cumbria CVS if you require alternative formats of this material. Tel: 01768 800350.

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