

Harrow Local Involvement Network (LINK) is a network of people and organisations or groups, who are able to represent the views and ideas of lots of different people about the way health and social care services are planned and delivered.

LINKs are part of a wider process to help the community have a stronger local voice. [➔ More](#)

Our thanks to all those organisations that contribute to this eBulletin and circulate information on our behalf.

NEWS
FEATURES
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FEEDBACK

Harrow LINK update

Harrow LINK Executive Committee Elections

The current Harrow Local Involvement Network (LINK) Executive Committee (EC) stands down at its Annual General Meeting on **Monday 14th May 2012** having served well for the past year.

A new committee will be elected to serve until **Sunday 31st March 2013**. If you are dedicated, have the time and necessary skills and experience and want to improve local health and social care services, then you may wish to nominate yourself as a candidate by completing the application form and sending it to the LINK office to reach us later than **Monday 23rd April 2012**. Application forms can be obtained from the Harrow LINK team on 0208 863 3355 or email info@harrowlink.org.uk

Please note: Harrow LINK participants* registered before **Saturday 31st March 2012** may stand as an independent member, or as a representative of a group or an organisation in which case, a valid authorisation letter must be submitted with the application.

*Membership of the Executive Committee is open to all LINK Participants except those who are current employees of the D.H., the NHS or any Local Authority or elected to serve as a M.P. or a Councillor.

Executive Committee Meeting

The LINK Executive Committee held its latest meeting in public on **Monday 12th March**. This meeting featured a presentation on the **North West London Case for Change, Shaping a Healthier Future**. The meeting notes and presentation will be uploaded onto the Harrow LINK website. At this meeting,

LINK EC Members and Participants reported on the Patient Experience Action Team

(PEAT)* visits they had participated in at the following locations:

- Rosedale Court on **Saturday 21st January** by Ann Freeman
- Northwick Park Hospital Mental Health Unit on **Tuesday 7th February** by John Hunter
- Northwick Park Hospital on **Monday 20th February** by Audrey Brightwell
- Roxbourne Medical Centre on **Tuesday 21st February** by John Hunter
- Denham Unit on **Thursday 8th March** by Julian Maw.

* [PEAT](#) is an annual assessment of inpatient healthcare sites in England that have more than 10 beds. For more information, please contact Harrow LINK on 0208 863 3355 or email info@harrowlink.org.uk

Other topics discussed at the meeting included:

- Harrow [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)
- [HealthWatch](#)
- North West London Hospital Trusts Cluster Governance
- North West London NHS Merger (The LINK held a public meeting on **Thursday 12th January 2012** on this topic - please refer to the [LINK website](#))

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on **Monday 16th April** from 10am to Noon, in Meeting Rooms 2 and 3, Harrow Healthy Living Centre, 38 – 40 High Street, Wealdstone, HA3 7AE. For more information and/or to confirm attendance, please contact Harrow LINK on 0208 863 3355 or email info@harrowlink.org.uk

Statutory Sector News

RNOH publishes draft equality objectives

In order to meet the public sector equality duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust (RNOHT) have developed [draft equality objectives](#), aiming to strengthen their performance in advancing equality for protected groups - both patients and staff.

RNOHT has adopted the NHS' national framework for complying with the Equality Act – the Equality Delivery System (EDS), the main goals of which are:

- Better health outcomes for all
- Improved patient access and experience
- Empowered, engaged and well-supported staff
- Inclusive leadership for all

You are welcome to provide your views on these objectives - please email your feedback to diversity@rnoh.nhs.uk

RNOH's Quality Account - 2012/13 priorities

All NHS Trusts are required by the Department of Health to produce an annual

Quality Account. The account enables RNOHT to report to the public on their commitment to and progress on assessing quality across all of their services. Part of the process involves giving staff, patients and commissioners the chance to scrutinise the Trust's performance in assessing and improving the quality of its services.

Also, the [account](#) sets out their priorities for quality improvement during 2012/2013, and your views are invited on what these priorities should be. The current potential priorities are:

- Continue to monitor avoidable infection and maintain current low levels
- Respond to poor scoring areas identified in the patient survey to improve patient experience
- Reduce pressure sore incidence

You are welcome to give your views by email to Stuart Coalwood, Assistant Director of External Compliance and Quality Assurance, RNOHT at stuart.coalwood@rnoh.nhs.uk
Please note the consultation closes on **Thursday 27th April 2012.**

News

Local Healthwatch – the policy explained

To help explain recent amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill about local Healthwatch, the Department of Health has published a document to clarify and restate the Government's vision for local Healthwatch.

The [document](#), which also describes the key policy ambitions for Healthwatch, is aimed at all those with an interest in local Healthwatch organisations across the NHS and social care, including local authorities, local involvement networks, emerging health and wellbeing boards and the voluntary and community sectors

NHS Constitution updated

An updated [NHS Constitution](#) has been published on **Thursday 8th March**. The new version of the Constitution, which applies to England, replaces the previous version of the Constitution published in 2010.

The NHS Constitution establishes the principles and values of the NHS in England. It sets out rights to which patients, public and staff are entitled, and pledges that the NHS is committed to achieve, together with responsibilities that the public, patients and staff owe to one another to ensure that the NHS operates fairly and effectively. All NHS bodies and private and third sector providers supplying NHS services are required by law to take account of this Constitution in their decisions and actions.



Consultations

Children and young people's health outcomes

This [consultation](#) seeks views on the health outcomes that matter most for children and young people and how the different parts of the health system will work together to deliver these. This consultation closes on **Monday 30th April 2012**

Smokeless tobacco cessation - South Asians

This [guidance](#) aims to help people of South Asian origin to stop using smokeless tobacco. The phrase 'people of South Asian origin' is used in this guidance to mean people with ancestral links to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan or Sri Lanka. This consultation closes at **5pm, Monday 23rd April 2012**

'Tell us about your care' pilot projects

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has begun pilot projects with the Relatives and Residents Association (R&RA) and the Patients Association (PA).

The aim of these [pilots](#) – known as 'Tell us about your care' - is to assess how feedback received from people who use services, their families and carers, via these organisations can inform the CQC's regulatory work. The CQC will also report back to the organisations on action they have taken as a result of

people's feedback. Learning from the pilots, which will run for six months (until September), will be used to help the CQC continue to improve the way it gathers and use information from people who use services, their families and carers about their experiences of care.

Prostate Cancer Awareness

In this Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, help make quality care a reality for all men with prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK. Every year 37,000 men are diagnosed and 250,000 men live with the disease. Prostate Cancer Charity has been working with men affected by prostate cancer and their families, health professionals, policy-makers and others to develop a [set of standards](#) that outline the best quality care that all men with prostate cancer need.

There is a feedback opportunity for you to [tell them what you think](#) about the their standards of quality prostate cancer care. If you have any questions or would like hard copies of their draft standards of care, please contact the Prostate Cancer Charity at campaigns@prostate-cancer.org.uk or on 0208 222 7622 (please ask for the Policy and Campaigns team).

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