

# NHS Centre for Involvement Newsletter

## Issue 4, November 2007

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the NHS Centre for Involvement  
[www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk).

The NHS Centre for Involvement works with NHS staff and organisations to engage with patients and the public more effectively and implement change.

**UPDATE:** Feedback that we have received from previous issues has encouraged us to distribute this Newsletter on a more frequent basis. From now, you will receive the NHS Centre for Involvement Newsletter on a six weekly basis, which will allow for shorter quicker reading.

### In this newsletter :

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## Government news and policy

### Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill

As you will know, the measures to replace Patient and Public Involvement Forums with Local Involvement Networks (LINks) are set out in the [Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill](#) which was introduced to Parliament in 2006. This Bill has received Royal Assent and will be available on the Office of Public Sector Information site shortly.

[Click here](#) to view the progress of the Bill.

The Department of Health plans to announce the allocation of funding being given for the establishment of Local Involvement Networks as soon as possible now that Royal

Assent has been granted. On 15 October amendments to the Bill were debated in the House of Lords. To access this debate [click here](#).

## **Local Involvement Networks**

### **LINKs Bill: Councils need money, not just 'power'**

Peter Hetherington writing in the Guardian says that while ministers heralded a new era of greater power and influence for councils and communities following the LINKs Bill's royal assent, they are not getting the financial support they need.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **LINKs powers consultation underway**

The Department of Health (DH) have initiated a consultation exercise on the regulations for LINKs. For more information and to download documents related to the consultation [click here](#).

The deadline to submit your views to the DH is 21 December 2007.

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## **2006/2007 Annual Health check ratings**

On Thursday October 18th, the Healthcare Commission published the annual health check ratings for all NHS trusts in England. In the past, NHS trusts were given a star rating, but last year the Commission introduced a much more comprehensive way of assessing performance - the annual health check - which provides patients and the public with independent and accessible information on their local NHS services. This was the second time that the ratings have been published as part of the annual health check and this year they also show how trusts are performing compared to last year.

For more information visit the new look Healthcare Commission website - [www.healthcarecommission.org.uk](http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk)

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## **Progress of PPI in the NHS with stakeholder organisations**

Further to the surveys of PPI Leads and Chief Executives of English NHS Trusts that were undertaken over the summer, the NCI is currently surveying a range of PPI stakeholders. This forms the third phase of the Annual Census on PPI, and will provide a more complete picture of national involvement activity.

Identified stakeholders include the Strategic Health Authorities, Royal Colleges, NHS Research and Clinical networks, as well as a range of voluntary organisations and research leaders. For more information on this project please contact [Helen Bayliss](#). The findings of the survey are due to be published in the New Year and will be made available on our website.

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## **New resource to support Patient and Public Involvement in healthcare**

A comprehensive collection of current knowledge and evidence about Patient and Public Involvement in healthcare is available in the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Specialist Library run by the King's Fund for the National Library for Health.

The aim of the PPI Specialist Library is to support the implementation of patient, user, carer and public involvement in health care by providing access, in one location, to the best information available.

To access the PPI Specialist Library go to: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/ppi/>

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## **Announcing the shortlisted entrants for the first annual 'Involvement to Impact Awards'**

To view a list of the shortlisted Award entrants please [visit our website](#). There was a very high calibre of work submitted, which has made choosing the winners very challenging for our judges.

For information about the Involvement to Impact Awards, go to [www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/I2IAwards2007/](http://www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/I2IAwards2007/)

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## **Involvement to Impact Conference**

The NHS Centre for Involvement will be holding its first annual 'Involvement to Impact' conference on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 November 2007 at the New Connaught Rooms, London WC2.

[Click here](#) to view the Agenda, to register your interest or for more information.

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## **Organisational Development update**

### **Sharing the Learning**

The NHS Centre for Involvement hosted a National 'Sharing the Learning' event on 2 October at the University of Warwick. This event showcased the organisations that we have worked with and provided practical tips and hints on improving how the NHS involves people to improve services.

Workshops were led by the four Trusts that the Centre has completed OD projects with over the past year. There are reports from each workshop available covering the following subjects: user-centred evaluations, involving children and young people, engaging BME communities in health care services, and involving people who have neurological conditions.

For more information on this event and copies of the presentations and reports, please [click here](#).

## What next?

We have received a number of requests from NHS organisations to work with them over the coming twelve months. We will be considering these requests in line with the findings of the first national survey and with national NHS priorities, such as the implementation of world class commissioning.

If you are interested in working with the Centre, please email [Ian Brittain](mailto:ian.brittain@nhs.uk).

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## What's going on in the Centre & opportunities for involvement

### People Bank

The past few months has seen the People Bank fully recruited with 67 Partners. The wide range of skills, abilities and experience available in the People Bank is inspiring. Service users, carers, NHS staff, researchers, patients, PPI professionals and members of Patient and Public Involvement Forums represent just some of the people working with the Centre on a variety of projects.

As the Centre moves into its second year more opportunities for work will be available to People Bank Partners. This will enable the People Bank to have a strong effect on the work and direction of the Centre over the next year.

### PCX nominated for 'Best Website' at AHC Awards 2007

The PCX network website was shortlisted for the 'Best Website' award from the Association of Healthcare Communicators Communicating Health Awards. The awards were presented at the Association of Healthcare Communicators Conference on Thursday 18 October 2007 in Sheffield.

Unfortunately, we weren't successful in winning but we feel honoured that the PCX was shortlisted for this award.

### PCX network book club – WE NEED YOU

We are looking for PCX network members who would like to write a review of a book and share their knowledge and learning with other PCX network members.

Reviewers are asked to write a 500+ word review and respond to comments and posts about the book reviewed. In return the reviewer gets to keep the book.

There are currently six books under review and we've received back our first final review on "Involving people in healthcare policy and practice" by Susie Green.

For more information visit the [PCX network](http://www.pcxnetwork.org.uk).

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## Dates for the diary

A selection of events and training that you may find useful are listed below. Please note: the NHS Centre for Involvement has not organised any of the below events and this list is just for information.

**12 November 2007:** [NHS Live National Event](#), International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

**13 November 2007:** [Technologies for Participation](#). Register online at [www.consultationinstitute.org](http://www.consultationinstitute.org).

**15 November 2007:** [Effective Focus Groups](#).

**15 November 2007:** [Patient Information Forum – Meeting Diversity in Patient Information Conference](#).

**21 November 2007:** [UK Clinical Research Network Annual Meeting](#).

**21 November 2007:** [Patient Information Forum – Information Prescriptions Conference](#).

**28/29 November 2007:** [Involvement to Impact Conference and Awards](#), NHS Centre for Involvement.

**28 November 2007:** [Consultation Before & After](#).

**4 December 2007:** [Introduction to Public & Stakeholder consultation](#).

**5 December 2007:** [Consultation and the Media](#).

**12 December 2007:** [Making Consultation Meaningful](#).

**12 December 2007:** [Evaluating Engagement](#).

**24 January 2007:** [Patient Involvement and Empowerment conference](#).

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## Newsletter Editorial Panel

Following our request in our last newsletter, we now have an editorial panel that will be helping the Centre think through the issues that need to be explored in the world of PPI. The panel now includes:

- Clare Woodford, Carers UK;
- Carol Rawlings, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust;
- Andrew Langford, Skin Care Campaign; and
- Usha Prema, Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust.

We are also in the process of recruiting several of our People Bank Partners to be included in this process as well.

There are still opportunities to join the panel email Kiley or Laura if you are interested in joining and contributing.

Please remember to let us know what you want from our site, especially what would be helpful information to enable you to do involvement well.

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### **To avoid continually logging on to the NHS Centre for Involvement website...**

To avoid continually typing in your login details, you can instruct Internet Explorer to save your name and password. In the main browser menu, click 'Tools' then 'Internet Options'. Click on the 'Content' tab and under Personal information click the 'AutoComplete' button. Make sure the boxes 'User names and passwords on forms' and 'Prompt me to save passwords' is checked. Next time you log into the site, you will be asked if you would like to save this information, and on subsequent visits, the log-in and password details will be automatically filled in as you start typing. Some networks may have disabled this feature for security reasons. If in doubt, please contact your network administrator.

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### **NHS Centre for Involvement registration criteria**

All NHS staff and organisations are encouraged to register for this site by logging their details on the registration page. [www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/register/](http://www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/register/) If you are reading this and you are not registered with Centre but would like to be, please go to the link above or call [Kiley](#) or [Laura](#) on 024 7615 0266 if you have questions.

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We would ask that you forward the bulletin to all members of your team who may benefit from this information. You may wish to print and display this bulletin on all relevant notice boards or arrange to have it published on your internal intranet sites. Alternatively, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters or would like to give us any feedback, please fill out a [contact form](#) on our website.