

PR and Communications

NHS Centre for Involvement Newsletter

Issue 7, March 2008

Welcome to the latest email newsletter from the NHS Centre for Involvement
www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk.

Please forward this bulletin to members of your team. You may wish to print and display it on notice boards or have it published on your internal intranet sites.

If you would like to contribute to future newsletters or give us any feedback, please fill out a [contact form](#) on our website.

In the newsletter this quarter:

- [Government news and policy](#)
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- [Patient and Public Involvement in Health Care Module](#)
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Government news and policy

Local Involvement Networks

LINKs Bulletin - Issue 10

[Click here](#) for the latest LINKs bulletin – February 2008 – issued by the NHS Centre for Involvement in partnership with the Department of Health.

LINKs: Explaining the role of the NHS Centre for Involvement

The Department of Health has asked the NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI) to be the lead organisation for supplying advice and guidance about LINKs. To download this document, visit the [NHS Centre for Involvement](#) website.

If you have queries about LINKs contact the LINKs Helpdesk on 024 7615 0705 or via email at info@links.nhs.uk.

LINKs Guide documents to help you 'get going'

The NHS Centre for Involvement has begun the ongoing process of developing a set of guides to help people and organisations get involved in their Local Involvement Network. If you have questions about any of the documents please contact us on info@links.nhs.uk.

- Guide No. 1 – Summary: Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- Guide No. 2 – What LINKs mean for: Health and Social Care Commissioners and Managers
- Guide No. 3 – What LINKs mean for: Local Authorities
- Guide No. 4 – What LINKs mean for: People and Communities
- Guide No. 5 – Procuring a Host to support LINKs
- Guide No. 7 – Transitional arrangements for LINKs

To download these documents, visit the [NHS Centre for Involvement](#) website.

Ann Keen – LINKs guidance

Ann Keen, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Health Services), Department of Health, has answered several questions regarding the set up of Local Involvement Networks on the website [TheyWorkForYou.com](#). The website allows users to keep up to date on issues that are being discussed in Parliament and other assemblies.

To receive updates visit [TheyWorkForYou.com](#).

'Empowerment' white paper unveiled

Hazel Blears, the communities secretary announced a "community empowerment" white paper - to be published in the summer - that would give a local dimension to proposals set out a year ago by the prime minister to create a new democracy in Britain. [Click here](#) to view the full press article.

To read Hazel Blears' speech and download a copy of Unlocking the talent of our communities [click here](#).

DH appoints director of patient and public affairs

The Department of Health has appointed Joan Saddler as director of patient and public affairs. Ms Saddler, who will take up the post this spring, is currently chair of Waltham Forest primary care trust and was a founder and joint chair of the first national black and minority ethnic forum for clinicians and leaders. [Click here](#) for the full story.

NICE Guidance – community engagement

This guidance aims to support those working with and involving communities in decisions on health improvement that affect them. It is for people working in the NHS and other sectors who have a direct or indirect role in - and responsibility for - community engagement. This includes those working in local authorities and the community, voluntary and private sectors. It will also be of interest to members of the public.

To download the guidance documents please [click here](#).

Patient and Public Involvement in Health Care Module

This course recently ran from 4-8 February 2008. The feedback we received from one student was, "The course gave me a thorough and comprehensive introduction to the 'arena' of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) while providing an ideal networking opportunity. I was able to get to know other professionals who have already been working in PPI, and I learned a great deal from hearing about their own experiences and challenges within the field."

Due to the popularity and success of the course future dates for the course to run have been added: 30 June – 4 July 2008. For more information visit the [Warwick Medical School](#) website or [click here](#) for an informational flyer.

Participation Nation: Reconnecting Citizens to the Public Realm

Involve has recently published Participation Nation, which brings together 17 leading thinkers and practitioners from government, Local Authorities, think tanks and non-government organisations to discuss the role of the citizen in the public realm.

To download a free copy, [click here](#).

Listen to me, I'm a Patient

Listen to me, I'm a Patient is a new online survey from The Open University to collect and test the opinions of the British public on their attitudes and choices on healthcare.

The aim of the survey is to uncover the choices people make about their healthcare whether conventional, complementary or alternative. The contributions will help Open University researchers to understand more about people's knowledge of healthcare and the choices they make regarding it.

[Click here](#) to access the survey. See our [press desk](#) for the full story.

Help shape the future of NHS Direct

NHS Direct is conducting a public consultation on its plans to become an NHS Foundation Trust. The consultation runs until Monday 31 March 2008. NHS Direct is keen that as many people as possible take part in its public consultation. To find out more and give your views, please visit www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/foundationtrust/.

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

Organisational Development Update

Things are moving swiftly in Organisational Development (OD) with two OD Project Managers starting work in the past two months.

[Jason Stamp](#) and [Connie Lord](#)



A review of the first year of OD work has been undertaken including work from the eight completed projects. The outcomes of the review have resulted in the production of a Handbook, the development of guidance for the Service Improvement element of the projects, and work on the one year follow up visits to our previous completed projects.

This year the Service Improvement element of the projects will provide focus with a menu of topics for the organisations we are working with. These include:

- Local Involvement Networks (LINKs);
- Commissioning;
- Urgent Care; and
- Other – for organisations that specifically wish to focus on different areas.

Work has been ongoing to establish a formal OD committee to formally monitor the OD work of the Centre – draft terms of reference have been produced and recruitment from the Centre's People Bank Partners has taken place.

In the coming year, the OD team are planning to complete 13 projects – many of which are already underway.

PCX live! Events

The PCX network will be staging the next three PCX network live! events in Spring 2008. The dates are:

- 1 April 2008 – Leicester, Nelson Rooms, Leicester Racecourse
- 4 April 2008 – Exeter, Sandy Park
- 10 April 2008 – Newmarket, Racecourse

Visit the [PCX network](#) for more information regarding each individual event including: registration forms, agendas, posters for local promotion, speaker information and discussion summaries.

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.

[Making Consultation Meaningful – 2008](#)

19 March 2008: Bristol

16 April 2008: London

29 April 2008: Belfast

[Implementing NICE guidance - Practice Based Commissioning of care pathways](#)

8 April 2008: Cambridge

14 April 2008: Birmingham

15 April 2008: Manchester

22 April 2008: London

For further information [click here](#).

9 April 2008: [Consultation and the Media](#)

10 April 2008: [Comprehensive engagement strategies](#)

22 April 2008: [6th Annual Community Consultation Conference – Empowering Communities](#)

23 April 2008: [Effective Focus Groups](#)

22 May 2008: [Patient Involvement and Empowerment 2008-02-22](#)

Newsletter Editorial Panel

Our newsletter editorial panel helps the Centre think through the issues that need to be explored in the world of PPI.

The panel now includes:

- Carol Rawlings, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust;
- Andrew Langford, Skin Care Campaign;
- Usha Prema, Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust;
- Helen Stevens, The Campaign Company;
- Lynda Jenkins, Dudley Council for Voluntary Service;
- Marilyn Hammick, Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education;
- David Hart, Help the Hospices and Trinity Service User Groups;
- Amjad Rahi, PPI Forum of the Barts and the London Hospital;
- Iona Burchell, Expert Patient Programme Facilitator;
- Luke Albarin, Worcestershire Hospitals PPI Forum;
- Mike Llywelyn Cox, Service User Involvement representative;
- Brendan McInerney, Barton and Tredworth Community Trust Centre; and

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.

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.

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/. 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.
