

LINK Southwark E-bulletin

15th July 2011

Welcome to the LINK Southwark e-bulletin where you will find snippets of news for you to feast on... enjoy!

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- 1. Important update - Southern Cross care homes**

Published 11 July 2011

The Chief Executive of Southern Cross care homes has written to all local authorities across the country today to let them know that homes run by the company are to be transferred to new operators.

The company has said that it will now draw up detailed plans on how this is to happen and have said that they will keep residents and their families, staff who work at the homes, and also local authorities, fully informed about what is happening. The national process of transferring Southern Cross homes to new owners is expected to be completed by the company by the end of October. In Southwark, Southern Cross operates three care homes.

Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said:

"Since this morning's announcement from Southern Cross, we have been seeking urgent clarification from their management about their three homes operating in the borough. On my visits to our care homes and in speaking with the managers I have been reassured that that they will ensure continuity of care for residents. We are currently not expecting any Southern Cross homes

in Southwark to close, but we are contacting both Southern Cross and their landlords to clarify the latest situation. We have also been making contingency arrangements over many weeks as the care of our residents will always be our priority.

"So whilst we appreciate that this national issue is likely to cause understandable local concern, we would like to reassure everyone that we will ensure that Southwark residents currently in Southern Cross homes will be well cared for and looked after".

Source: Southwark Council

2. Health & Adult Social Care Bill

LINK Southwark has subscribed to daily updates on the Health and Adult Social Care Bill currently going through parliament and would like to encourage members to do the same to keep up to date with the proposed reforms. Click on the link below to register.

https://subscriptions.parliament.uk/service/subscribe.html?code=UKParliament_Bill_817

3. NHS Future Forum

The NHS Future Forum is to investigate another four key aspects of the health reforms - and has been asked to suggest 'radical' new ideas. Forum chairman Professor Steve Field said the first theme to be examined would be how to improve integration of clinical services around the needs of the patient.

The forum would also look at improving the use of information to help patients make choices and clinicians improve quality of care, as well as continuing the forum's work on public health and education and training.

Source: National Association of LINK Members (NALM)
www.nalm.org.uk

4. HealthWatch update

Following the Government's response to the NHS Future Forum report on the Health and Social Care Bill, we can confirm that the date for establishing HealthWatch England and Local HealthWatch has been pushed back to **1 October 2012**. The Government response to the NHS Future Forum listening exercise was published on 20 June. [Click here to view the document](#).

The HealthWatch Advisory group (run by the Department of Health and CQC as part of the national HealthWatch programme) is now producing a regular bulletin containing authoritative developments on HealthWatch. It will be distributed through the Department of Health (DH), the Care Quality

Commission (CQC), the National Association of LINK Members (NALM) and other advisory group members. You can view the bulletin from <http://www.cqc.org.uk/aboutcqc/whatwedo/improvinghealthandsocialcare/healthwatch.cfm>

The HealthWatch online forum will go live this month. It will give you the opportunity to keep up-to-date and to feed into HealthWatch developments. If you want to sign up please go to enquiries.healthwatch@cqc.org.uk

Source: www.cqc.org.uk/localvoices Visit this site also for all CQC bulletins.

5. Views of black men about weight and Health

Guy's and St Thomas' 
NHS Foundation Trust

Researchers from Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust are looking for black African and black Caribbean men (weighing 95kg / 15 stone or more) to take part in a study about health and weight.

The study is being funded by the National Obesity Forum charity. Participants will be invited to share their views in group discussion or one-to-one interview.

Findings from the study will be used to help design health and weight management services that appeal to black men in Lambeth and Southwark.



If you are interested in taking part, or know someone who might be, please contact Tony Hirving (researcher) to find out more
Mobile: 07535 519503 or e-mail: tony.hirving@nhs.net

6. Elections to the NALM Steering Group

The National Association of LINK Members (NALM) is calling for nominations from members to join their Steering Group. The Steering Group's job is to influence national policy on behalf of the membership, responding to issues forwarded by the membership and to those brought to NALM by other stakeholders.

Note: There can be a maximum of two nominations for each region
For a nomination form, info on the role of Steering Group members and a description of the election process call 020 8809 6551, or e-mail NALM2008@aol.com, www.NALM.org.uk . Deadline for nomination forms is **Friday August 12 2011 at 5pm**

7. A word from Caroline Hewitt, Chair, NHS South East London

“After 30 years of NHS service in London, Chief Executive Simon Robbins will be retiring towards the end of the summer. I am delighted to announce that Andrew Kenworthy will be joining NHS South East London as our new Chief Executive. Andrew will be joining us from NHS Nottingham City and NHS Nottinghamshire County Commissioning Cluster, where he is currently Chief Executive. The senior management team and I are looking forward to working with Andrew. Andrew will be joining NHS South East London at the beginning of the autumn, and is looking forward to meeting you in person in due course.”

For full quote please contact the LINK Host Team.

8. NICE Survey

NICE is conducting a survey to collect information on what patients and the public think of the way our current guidance is presented. We would be very grateful if you could complete a [short questionnaire](#) asking about your knowledge and experience of using our clinical guidelines. The questionnaire is a mixture of multiple choice questions and opportunities to provide more detailed replies. The survey should run throughout July.

This survey is part of a larger study, [DECIDE](#), which is a five-year collaborative project funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme and is designed to research and improve the way healthcare evidence and recommendations are presented in clinical guidelines.

Please help distribute the link to this survey, by

- Filling in one of our surveys yourself or
- Posting the link to a blog or a news feed for your organisation or
- Sharing the link on your Facebook or Twitter feeds or
- Sending the link to anyone you think might be interested in the survey.

For more info contact Sarah Chalmers Project Manager
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, (0)161 870 3021 | Fax:
44 (0) 20 7061 9710
www.nice.org.uk

EVENTS

9. NHS South East London Primary Care Trust/ Care Trust Board Meeting

The public is invited to the NHS South East London Primary Care Trust/ Care Trust Board on Thursday 21st July at Council Chambers, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH.

Times:

2-2.55pm – session for public for questions and comments in Committee Room 1

3-6pm – Session for board members only

If you have any questions or comments for the board these can be submitted prior to the meeting via Ben Vinter, Governance Manager @ ben.vinter@nhs.net

Papers are available at

http://www.selondonsector.nhs.uk/nhs_south_east_london/board_papers

Next meeting: Thursday 22nd September 2011, 2.00pm-2.55pm, venue to be confirmed.

10. Exercise Classes & Southwark Pensioners Centre

Stretch and relax class. Thursdays 11am – 12pm.

Venue: 305- 307 Camberwell SE5 0HQ

Contact: 020 7708 4556

11. Circus Skills for Children with Learning Disabilities,
Cambridge House is running a summer playscheme with a circus skills theme including a range of on site activities and trips for clients with learning disabilities and limited spaces for siblings. Aged 8 – 16 years old, 26th July- 18th August.



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For more information on any of the above contact the Host Team on 020 7358 7005 or link@ch1889.org, www.linksouthwark.org