



March 2010
Spring edition

A..cute view: time to share yours now!

A major consultation on changes to acute health services in North East London is underway and time is running out to have your say! **Health for North East London** has put proposals together to change the way hospitals provide services such as Accident and Emergency, maternity care and planned surgery.

The deadline to respond to these plans is **22 March**.

The Health for North East London proposals are based on Lord Darzi's vision for healthcare, as well as results from an earlier Healthcare for London review.

The changes aim to ensure people receive the best specialist care available and can also access appropriate services closer to their homes. Suggestions include:

- Concentrating specialist services (such as complex vascular surgery and surgery on children) at the Royal London Hospital and Queen's Hospital.
- Developing urgent care centres and polyclinics to provide a wider range of services, whilst transferring Accident and Emergency away from King George's Hospital.

Have your say on these important changes!



For more information, please contact Health for North East London using the following details:

Website: www.health4nel.nhs.uk

Telephone: 020 7092 5495

Email: healthfornel@thpct.nhs.uk

The City LINK has taken a keen interest in this process: Steering Group members attend meetings with neighbouring LINKs regularly and two representatives sit on Heath4NEL's "People's Platform". Recently, the LINK submitted feedback to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which helped to extend the consultation deadline to ensure more people could have their say.

When the consultation period has finished, reports will be compiled and a business case developed to be considered by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts. There will be a lot more opportunities to be involved in this process—Watch this space!

City LINK Steering Group Update

The Steering Group is the Governing Body of the LINK and meets monthly to drive work forward. Lead by City resident, Nick Kennedy, the group has been concentrating on addressing four key areas of concern to the local community. These include:

- Two-way information and access to services
- Service provision in the Portsoken Area
- Mental Health Services
- Patient Handover and Care



What do you think about these issues? Do you have ideas or experiences you'd like to share? What else should the LINK be looking in to? The City LINK needs to hear from you!

Let us know your views by: sending back the freepost postcard; sharing your views online at www.cityoflondonlink.org.uk or giving the LINK team a ring on 020 7535 0496. We can also talk to you about other ways in which you might like to get involved.

The Steering Group is looking to co-opt a new member to represent the views of residents in the East of the City. Could this be you? Find out more by contacting Jenny: jpurcell@citycomm.org.uk/020 7535 0496.

Homerton to elect Governor representing the City

Homerton University Hospital has long been important to City residents, providing much needed general services to the local population alongside specialist care in obstetrics, neonatal care, obesity surgery and many other areas.

As a NHS Foundation Trust, the hospital has freedom to plan its services around the needs of local people and relies on a body of "members" to inform how this should happen.



There are nearly 6,000 members of Homerton Foundation Trust: people who live in the area, use hospital services, work for the NHS, or have an interest in the Homerton Trust.

Membership is free to all and offers the opportunity to stay informed, help shape services, and vote in Trust elections. As a member, there is no other commitment than to receive information from the Trust.

The Board is now recruiting a new Governor to act as a link between the Board of Directors and members from the City constituency. This is a vital role, representing the views of City residents, helping the hospital plan for the future and ensuring local people have their say.

To vote for the new Governor, you will need to register as a member of Homerton Foundation Trust. Why not find out more by visiting the website: www.homerton.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/foundation-trust/members/ or calling the hospital on 020 8510 5555.

Spring into Action with City RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Programme)

Are you aged 50+? Do you have a spare couple of hours to spare, once a week, to visit someone who is unable to get out and about themselves? Can you enable them to go on outings to the shops, attend meetings, or so to medical appointments?



Without City RSVP volunteers, RSVP clients would not be so able to lead an active life in the City.

If you are not able to commit to 2 hours per week, we also need people to join a pool of escorts to help with one-off appointments or outings. Full training, out of pocket expenses and support is given.

City RSVP volunteers also go into schools and after school clubs to help with reading and teach knitting. Volunteers also knit for Humanitarian Aid Convoys and hospitals in this country.

If you are a knitter, or would like to learn you would be very welcome to come and join us on the first Friday of the month at the Sir Ralph Perring Club from 10.30 am to 12.15 pm (adj. Golden Lane Swimming Pool). We are also always in need of any donations of spare wool.

Joy Hollister

A new lead for Community and Children's Services at the City of London

The Community and Children's Services Department at the City of London Corporation provides a wide range of services to City residents - from sporting opportunities at Golden Lane Leisure Centre, to domiciliary support for older people living at home.

The Corporation has recently recruited Joy Hollister, formerly Director of Adult Social Care and Housing at Brighton & Hove City Council, to head this department.

Joy has dedicated 20 years to managing care services and will bring this experience to a broad role, including responsibilities for: Adult and Children's Social Care, Education, Housing, Management of the Barbican Estate, Sports and Sports Development and liaising closely with the NHS and other partners.

Ms Hollister has said "I am very pleased to be joining the City...I am excited by the challenges that the remit brings and to be working with such obviously talented and committed staff".

For more information on the City of London Corporation and its services, please visit: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk or call 020 7606 3030.



Could you be an Authorised Rep?

One of the LINK's legal powers is the ability to enter and view premises where local health and social care services are delivered, to check on concerns raised by local people and report back observations.

'Authorised representatives' are LINK members who are recruited annually to carry out this role on behalf of the LINK.



All representatives must be approved by the LINK Steering Group and must undergo CRB checks and training before participating in visits. They must also agree to have their names published as City LINK Authorised Representatives.

The LINK Team will provide support with training and other requirements. If you are interested in helping with this important role please fill out and return the application form enclosed with this newsletter. Local people need your help!

City LINK Needs You!

If you're not a member of City LINK, join us and help make a difference to your local health and social care services. We are a network of local people and community organisations working on a voluntary basis to collect local views and needs and communicate them to service providers to change services for the better. To find out more contact us using the details below!

Training for LINK Members

Do you know enough about how local health and social care services work? Perhaps you're not sure about how to get your views across. We are asking LINK members to fill in a skills audit form (enclosed with this newsletter) to find out how we can help you. Once we have collected responses we will identify the most common needs and will organise training.

LINK Events Calendar!

Keep up to date with events and training on health and social care. Check out our City LINK Events Calendar – new on the City LINK website:

www.cityoflondonlink.org.uk

Contact us



Jenny Purcell is City of London LINK Officer. Please contact her if you would like to join the network or suggest an issue for the LINK to investigate. If you'd like to stop receiving LINK news, or leave the network, let us know.

City of London LINK
c/o CITY.COMM.
37 Chapel Street, London, NW1 5DP
Tel : 020 7535 0496

CITY.COMM.COMM hosts City of London LINK and was launched in July 2006 to support voluntary and community action in the City of London.

"We provide information, support and networking opportunities for voluntary and community groups to help them: achieve their aims and objectives; share their ideas, skills and experience; and influence local policy-making and planning. By supporting the voluntary and community sector we help to combat poverty, disadvantage and discrimination, and to improve the quality of life for communities, groups and individuals."

Mark Pudge, Director of CITY.COMM



hosted by
CITY.COMM
SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY AND
COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE CITY

