

Health and Well-being in Sandwell

Issue Two, June 2008

Produced on behalf of Sandwell Health and Well-being Board

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Sandwell Host Appointed Black Country Housing Group to Support LINK



Alan Dean, Head of Joint Policy Unit (right) welcomes Bob Higgins and Elemay Parkes from Black Country Housing Group

There will soon be a stronger local voice for people in the Borough of Sandwell in the planning, commissioning and provision of health and social care services.

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) is one of a number of government initiatives that aim to help improve the care and support people receive by providing more ways in which local people can shape services.

Local authorities with a social care responsibility are required to commission an organisation that will support or host a LINK. The task of the host is to set up and develop the LINK and then to provide the practical support the LINK needs. This new way of working will help the LINK to establish an independent network, which will develop its own ways of working under the new law.

Sandwell Council has appointed Black Country Housing Group as the host for the Sandwell LINK. Commenting on the appointment the group's Chief Executive Sandra Spence said, "We are looking forward to supporting this new era of patient and public involvement in Sandwell. We will build upon our experience of community involvement to provide a first class service as the host to the LINK."

Membership of the LINK will be open to both individual people and organisations. Black Country Housing Group's Director of Community Regeneration Elemay Parkes said, "We expect that members will want to be involved in different ways. Some members will want to be involved in planning and running the LINK while others may only want to get involved in areas of particular interest to them." We will shortly be finding out more about what people want from LINKs and how they'd like to be involved."

If you would like more information about LINKs or are thinking of becoming a member contact the Black Country Housing Group on [0121 561 969](tel:0121561969).

For more information about LINKs go to www.dh.gov.uk or for local information go to www.webwell.org.uk.

Sandwell Local Area Agreement

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) sets out agreed priorities for the Primary Care Trust (PCT), Local Authority and other partners with central government for the next three years. This replaces last year's LAA and comes into force at the beginning of June.

The LAA focuses on nine priority areas that include some challenging targets.

- More and better
- Improving health
- Supporting independence
- Reducing high volume crime (*violent crime, domestic burglaries, vehicle crime and robbery*)
- Children have a good start in life
- Successful young people

Review of Health Needs to be published on Webwell

The Review of Health Needs across Sandwell for the Joint Needs Strategic Assessment (JSNA) is to be published next week (12th June) on Webwell www.webwell.org.uk/JSNA.

The review covers the widest definition of health, including the health impacts of housing, employment, crime and education. It examines variations in need and health outcomes by age and gender, by ethnic group and across the wards and towns of Sandwell, as well as comparing Sandwell to other areas to see how we are performing. Many of the

- Cleaner, safer active communities
- More people in employment
- Educational Attainment

The Health and Well-Being Board is driving forward work on the Improving Health and Supporting Independence priorities. Current work includes the development of delivery plans setting out key actions that need to be taken over the next three years.

The board's work on Improving Health aims to reduce people dying from circulatory diseases (heart disease and stroke) by increasing physical activity, reducing smoking and alcohol consumption. Also, work led by other partnerships on increased breast feeding, reducing childhood obesity.

Plans for Supporting Independence will enable older people and those who are vulnerable to remain in their own homes. A key priority is to give people greater control and choice via direct payments and individual budgets. A more joined-up approach will be taken to supporting people with long-term conditions such as diabetes and supporting people back into work.

findings were not unexpected. The main killers remain circulatory disease (CHD and stroke), lung cancer, and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). However deaths from alcohol are increasing and smoking, obesity, exercise and alcohol all remain significant causes of ill-health.

This is the first part of JSNA. The next stage is for commissioners and managers in the Primary Care Trust and Local Authority to examine the findings and compare these to their strategies and plans to ensure they address the issues raised.

In September, the JSNA will be part of the Health Wellbeing Partnership consultation event at the pUBLIC. The JSNA is not a one-off; it is to be an on-going process of needs assessment and the results of the consultation will inform the prioritisation of areas for further in-depth work to ensure our commissioning plans address the real needs of the Sandwell population.

Shaping the Future of Health and Well-being Workshop

31 March 2008

What is health and well-being? This was just one of the challenging questions put to health and social care stakeholders at a local workshop organised by Sandwell's Health and Well-being Board. A combination of ideas were pulled together to form the following definition of health and well-being in Sandwell.

"A supporting environment that encourages individuals and the community to reach its physical, social, emotional and spiritual potential."

The main aim of the workshop was to agree a set of outcomes that would help shape the work of the board over the next three years. These outcomes include:

- an agreed definition of health and well-being in Sandwell
- a common understanding of the core purpose, key principles and goals for the board
- a strong sense of common identity for the work on health and well-being
- the development of a health and well-being network

Value for money and the effective use of shared resources were just two of the principles suggested by participants. Other principles included:

- focusing on improving outcomes
- putting people at the heart of our work through respect, inclusion and engagement
- making transformation successful, sustainable and real
- working towards equity and equality

A wider stakeholder event will be held at the pUBLIC later this year. The event will enable board members to consult with stakeholders, members of the public and various service user networks on what health and well-being means, focusing on two key areas:

- definition of health and well-being, principles and priorities (taken from the March workshop)
- issues / priorities identified in the joint strategic needs assessment, which is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities and PCTs.



The event will provide an opportunity to raise awareness and to showcase partnership work on health and well-being issues.

For updates go to www.webwell.org.uk

Sue Hulse (Assistant Coordinator Learning Disability Day Opportunities) treated participants to her poem written especially for the event. "It's about Health and Well-being"

Lifestyle Services Team reach out to Primary Care

The Annual General Meeting of the Black Country Commissioning Network (BCCN) took place on 13 May, at Vision Point in Tipton.

BCCN Board member Dr. Simon Mitchell highlighted the importance of lifestyle programmes to support high-risk patients and those with existing chronic disease conditions. "It is essential that we devote more attention to lifestyle risk management if we are to reduce health inequalities in Sandwell. The development of an integrated lifestyle management service is a vital tool for developing this area of work. Practice based commissioners need to see further development in lifestyle management services."

The Lifestyle services team (based within the Public Health Department of Sandwell PCT) are currently developing an integrated Lifestyle Management Service in order to ease the process for GP referrals into multi-interventions.

A brochure of programmes including weight management, well-being, healthy eating, smoking cessation, physical activity, drugs and alcohol advice, will be available to practices within the next couple of months.



Members from the Lifestyle services team joined stakeholders including GPs, Commissioners and Practice Managers at BCCN AGM



Fat chances - What is the future for health and food?

As the G8 World leaders meet in Toyako, Japan, to determine the fate of millions, it is time again for Sandwell Health's Other Economic Summit (SHOES) to look at how our local issues can impact on world health and how global issues affect us.

This conference is an opportunity not to be missed and marks the 60th anniversary of the declaration of human rights and the birth of the NHS.

This is the sixth SHOES conference since its inception and is the first time it has been developed jointly with the West Midlands Teaching Public Health Network. This is also the first time the conference is open to delegates from outside of Sandwell.

You can register your details via email at: shoes@sandwell-pct.nhs.uk or alternatively download the application form from www.webwell.org.uk. Send completed application forms together with payment to Joanne Steventon, Sandwell PCT, 2nd Floor, Kingston House, 438 High Street, West Bromwich, B70 9LD.

If you would like further copies of the Health and Well-being in Sandwell or a copy of this newsletter in an alternative format contact:

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The work of the Health and Well-being Board will shortly be going online and can be found at the following websites:
www.sandwell.gov.uk,
www.sandwell-pct.nhs.uk and
www.webwell.org.uk

