



Your voice on local health and social care

Oxfordshire Local Involvement Network Update for OJHOSC meeting 21st January 2010

(Extracted from LINK Newsletter published Dec 2009 with recent updates added)

Oxfordshire LINK has set up project groups across the County to take forward some of the key health and social care issues which have been raised by LINK participants:

Access to services in rural areas

Accessibility of Health and Social Care services in rural areas (for example transport to hospital appointments) has long been identified as an issue and there is a project group in place, currently looking at how accessible services are in Faringdon & SW Oxfordshire. The intention is to replicate this project in different parts of the county during 2010.

Self Directed Support (Personal Budgets)

The LINK recognises that this transformation is an enormous shift in the way care is delivered. The LINK will be carrying out research into the existing delivery and support of Personal Budgets, currently being piloted in North Oxfordshire, in order to assess the impact these changes are having on service users and carers. This large scale project will run throughout 2010

Intermediate Care

The LINK is proposing to carry out some work examining how patients are currently experiencing the 'Choose and Book' system for hospital or clinic appointments, which has been in operation for some while. The LINK is also seeking views on developments at Bicester and Townlands (Henley) Community Hospitals.

Drug Recovery Project

The LINK Project Group has been working with service users and local organisations, together with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team, to clarify reasons for the service's closure and to explore ways in which it can be reprovided for Oxfordshire users. The LINK DRP report is submitted with this update for consideration by the HOSC.

Other projects:

Alongside the above main work programme themes, the LINK has been approached by various groups and organisations in the county with a view to working in partnership with LINK participants to improve or develop services within the following areas:

Crisis House Project – to develop short term residential support for people experiencing mental health crises as an alternative to hospital admission or home-based treatment. The LINK will be working in partnership to provide support for research, help liaise with statutory bodies and publicise the work of the project.

Child Brain Injury Trust – to assist in research into the quality of information and consistency of service received by children, young people and their families who are admitted to A&E and/or a ward with any event that could also be associated with an acquired brain injury.

Mental Health Service Users Network – service priorities to be agreed

Mental Health services in West Oxon – service user and carer interviews on range and quality of mental health services in West Oxfordshire.

Neurological Alliance – promotion and assistance in establishment of this new group

Oxfordshire Unlimited – development of a physical disabilities ‘User Led Organisation’

Social & Community Services – self-assessment process in collaborating with Care Quality Commission (LINK facilitation/hosting of a service user and carer event on 12th March 2010)

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