

**Oxfordshire Local Involvement Network
Update for Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
meeting 15th November 2012**

Ongoing Health projects and engagement:

Public, patient and carer concerns, issues and compliments collected through LINK engagement and outreach activities have resulted in the following project being undertaken. **N.B. The following update refers to LINK projects which have a Health remit only, unless there is joint interest, or commissioning, with Social Care services**

Maternity Services review

The project is now in its third month – the following summarises the current status:

Important to note that many positive comments have been received, which will be included within the final report. Recommendations, at the time of writing, will be centred on improvements which could be made in the support received after birth, for example:

- Breastfeeding – is pushed as best, then not followed up with the right level or regularity of support;
- Consistency of support – seeing many different health visitors after the birth, which leads to conflicting information being given; lack of signposting onto other services and inability to develop a relationship with professionals.

LINK is aware of the proposal to change the way in which OCCG will contract for Maternity Services from April 2013, through Outcome Based Commissioning, with the following indicators derived from key themes coming through local and national work on maternity outcomes. These can be summarised as:

- Choice of where and how to receive services
- Continuity of care especially one-to-one care in labour and birth
- Early access to services and reducing avoidable admissions to neonatal units
- Reducing differences in outcomes between communities and groups (e.g. breastfeeding)

Priority areas identified for Oxfordshire women: In September, the Joint Commissioning Team started early discussions with local users and representatives on what outcomes they would prioritise. These are summarised below:

- Breastfeeding
- Maternal mental health
- Continuity of care (especially in antenatal period)
- One to one care in labour
- Normal birth
- No unexpected admissions at term (40 weeks)

The above areas fall broadly in line with current LINK findings. The LINK review and outcomes will be taken into account for future Commissioning decisions.

LINK have also received formal requests to look into the issues with Wantage and Chipping Norton Maternity Units. The following statement has been received from OUH regarding Wantage: "Following the completion of the roof works at Wantage Community Hospital and a successful recruitment drive, the maternity unit at Wantage will reopen for births on the 26th November 2012".

'Enter and View' visits to Care Homes

The second series of visits to 30 care homes, ongoing from April 2012, has been completed. The report was presented to Adult Services Scrutiny Committee on 13th Nov and is included for information. An additional report regarding a visit to the Drug & Alcohol Detoxification service at Howard House is included here with reference to the earlier LINK project in 2010.

Mental Health Hearsay

A follow up event will take place on **6th December from 10.30am-1.00pm** at the Old Fire Station, Oxford, to hear progress on the action plan from the previous event, agreed with Oxford Health and the PCT/OCCG commissioners and which has also been considered by the Joint Management Group (JMG) and the Better Mental Health in Oxfordshire Board (BMHO).

OMEGA report into the system for referral and treatment of CFS/ME patients

The final report has been delayed a little due to difficulties in obtaining & verifying some of the statistical information. However, the intention is to table the report for members to consider in due course and to request feedback at the January HOSC meeting from members, together with the commissioner and providers. Copies of the report will be available following the meeting.

Adrian Chant (LINK Locality Manager)
01865 883488
Update 05/11/2012