Welcome to the latest edition of Connect 4 in which you will find reports from the last meeting held in July at Erewash CVS in Long Eaton including summaries of the presentations made by Erewash Clinical Commissioning Group and an update from Derbyshire County Council on the position regarding HealthWatch. In addition, Jacqui Marsh from the Alzheimer’s Society gave a very interesting talk about their work in Derbyshire and Pete Edwards from Erewash CVS gave a short presentation about Community Directory Derbyshire.

If you have any queries or would like more information on any of the content of Connect 4 please contact Pam Wood at South Derbyshire CVS on 01283 219761 or email pamw@sdcvs.org.uk, or see the back page for the full postal address.

21st Century Principles

The Forum was attended by officers from Erewash Clinical Commissioning Group, Martin Cassidy, Assistant Operating Officer, Amanda Bradley, Commissioning Support and Sue Pogson Patient and Public Involvement Manager for NHS Derbyshire.

Sue gave a presentation on the Vision for Derbyshire Health Services in the 21st Century and the principles which underpin the decision making to deliver this vision. The aim is to provide more integrated services with different sectors and agencies working together to provide a person centred and holistic service supporting people through every stage of their lives with a focus on prevention and independence.

Sue explained that there were a number of drivers to this approach including Derbyshire’s growing aging population, financial considerations, and technological advances in treatment and drugs. In addition it is Government policy that health services continue to offer flexible services, increasing access and reducing waiting time, ensuring that patients get into the right service first time and are involved in decisions and given choice. Sue also explained that in order to achieve this vision some difficult choices about services would have to be made as there is a finite amount of resources supporting health service delivery. However, she also told us that all decisions will be made in line with a series of principles which had been initially drawn up by representatives from partner health and social care organisations and then informed phase 1 of the public consultation on 21st Century Healthcare:

- Principle one: continue to improve patient experience
- Principle two: ensure best outcomes for all
- Principle three: no decision about me is made without me
- Principle four: helping people to help themselves
- Principle five: delivering the right service every time
- Principle six: care is provided at the right place
- Principle seven: flexible and integrated working across organisations
- Principle eight: be innovative
- Principle nine: responsible information sharing

There has been a countywide consultation with stakeholders about these principles which are now to undergo some amendment based on feedback received during this first part of the consultation. Sue went on to examine the ‘pros’ and ‘cons’ of each of the principles and we could see that, whilst it is difficult to disagree with the sentiment underpinning them, they could result in some difficult decisions with which not everyone would agree. For example, providing...
care in the right place (principle 6) might result in more specialist units and the loss of more locally based services. This might mean that the service is delivered by staff with greater experience and specialist expertise but might increase travel times for patients and carers.

The presentation generated a lot of challenging questions and comments from the members present. Some were about very specific individual patient experiences which were not appropriate to deal with in this in the setting of an open meeting. However, Sue and Martin either took individuals names and contacts to deal with the problem outside the meeting or advised that the Patient Advice and Liaison Service would be the most appropriate route through which to raise the issue.

Concern was expressed that the CCGs will have to make major budget savings and that the principles are fine when commissioning services but it is more likely that services will be decommissioned. Martin said that the principles would also be applied when reviewing and decommissioning services.

A number of members also asked questions about how different agencies will be working together and whether Derbyshire would consider having a joint budget for Health and Social Care. Martin replied that he felt this would be unlikely in the near future but that there are plans for much closer working between agencies, including voluntary sector partners, and that there is a Joint Commissioning Group which looks at how Adult Care Board priorities can be met through joint commissioning. Several members also made comments about the quality of commissioning within Derbyshire and suggested that commissioners spend time within the services which they are commissioning/decommissioning to improve the service specifications and have more understanding of the consequences of their decisions. Martin said this already takes place to a large degree.

Members also asked about how the voluntary sector would be involved in greater integrated working and commissioning. Martin and Sue said that the voluntary sector is a valued stakeholder as demonstrated by their attendance at the Forum. Fiona Worrall from Derbyshire County Council Adult Care suggested that people make sure they know who the voluntary sector representatives are on the relevant bodies and make sure they get the appropriate feedback. Pam agreed to do a mapping exercise to show people which reps sit on which boards.

There were also some concerns expressed about people who have a dual diagnosis of health needs falling between services. Martin and Sue said that the increase in joint working should improve this situation and Jacqui Willis from NDVA explained that the Local Involvement Network (LiNK) has a group which looks specifically at issues around dual diagnosis. Derbyshire LiNK is a network made up of local people and community group representatives whose remit is to gather information about issues relating to local health and social care services. You can find out more about them by visiting www.derbyshirelink.org.uk or contacting them on 01246 558924 or by emailing info@derbyshirelink.org.uk.

Preparing for HealthWatch

Fiona Worrall from Derbyshire County Council gave a presentation about the current position with regard to the development of HealthWatch in Derbyshire.

Every local authority area is required to establish a HealthWatch which will be an independent consumer champion, seeking and representing the views of local people and organisations to promote better outcomes in health and social care. Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is currently implementing the process through which HealthWatch will be commissioned in the County.
Fiona set the context with some background information about Derbyshire:

70 Miles Square
8 District/Borough Councils, 15 acute trusts, over 300 care homes
Population of approximately 750,000
Population is most dense along the eastern side of the county
Population is ageing
Wide variations in health status
Some rural deprivation and related problems

Fiona explained that HealthWatch will take over the role of LINk, which is currently hosted by two local voluntary organisations, NDVA and Amber Valley CVS. LINk’s contract has been extended until 2013 and a transition plan is being developed to ensure that the work which it has done and its priorities are maintained whilst HealthWatch is developed.

A multi disciplinary project team has been established by the Health and Well Being Board to oversee the development of HealthWatch comprised the following:

2 members of LINk Steering Group
Adult Care
Children’s and Younger Adults Department
Chief Executive’s Department
PCT representative
Voluntary Sector representation being sought

The role of HealthWatch will be to seek the views of people about their needs for and their experiences of, local care services and make recommendations about how things could or ought to improve. HealthWatch will also provide advice and information about how to access local health and social care services and, through the Health and Wellbeing Board, feed information to and from HealthWatch England.

Over the next few months DCC will be engaging with the public to check that they are on the right track with the development of HealthWatch and the transition from LINk. They will be undertaking an open procurement process and looking to involve stakeholders in it with the aim of producing the tender document by September 2012.

Potential providers will be expected to come forward with models of how they will manage the service as a social enterprise, demonstrate they have a visible presence in local communities and co-ordinate an advice, support, and information service for the public and be independent of the Council.

The ultimate outcome should be a HealthWatch for Derbyshire which is a respected and independent place for people to seek advice, able to provide intelligent and robust evidence to shape better services whilst maintaining a balance between being a ‘voice’ for local people and an influential decision making partner on the Health and Well Being Board.

If you would like more information please contact:

Fiona Worrall
Service Manager (Community Contracts)
Derbyshire County Council
01629 532191
Fiona.worrall@derbyshire.gov.uk
Alzheimer’s Society
Dementia Support in Derbyshire

Jacqui Marsh, the Locality Manager for the Alzheimer’s Society in Derbyshire gave a presentation about their work.

She explained that ‘dementia’ is not a disease in itself but is the term used to describe a number of symptoms including:

- gradual loss of memory
- decline in ability to think and reason
- problems with communication
- problems carrying out everyday tasks

And that these symptoms are caused by a variety of different disorders and conditions, the most common of which are:

- Alzheimer’s Disease
- Vascular Dementia
- Dementia with Lewy Bodies

But there over 100 different conditions which can lead to the symptoms of dementia. Age is the biggest risk factor and 1 in 3 people will die with dementia although it can affect people as young as 30 and even children in rare cases.

National figures put the number of people suffering from dementia at 800,000. In Derbyshire there are 13,500 people (4000 in the City and 9,500 in the County) with dementia and numbers are expected to reach over a 1 million people in the UK by 2021. This is probably only a proportion of the actual number of people with dementia as it is estimated that only about 43% are ever diagnosed.

The need to address dementia is recognised both at a national and local level as there is clear evidence of the difficulties faced by people with dementia and their carers and families and the increasing numbers have made it a high priority.

In Derbyshire the County Council have commissioned a specialist Dementia Support Service and the contract was awarded to the Alzheimer’s Society to start on 1st March 2012. The service works alongside the Memory Assessment Service, is based in the community, and covers the whole of the County to provide:

- Dementia Support Workers
- Specialist information, advice and support
- Memory Cafes (14 across the County)
- Carers Support Groups (7 across the County)
- Carers Information Programme

For more information and to find out more about the work of the Alzheimer’s Society either generally or more specifically in Derbyshire please visit www.alzheimers.org.uk or telephone:

National Helpline: 0845 300 0336
Derby office: 01332 208845 Email: derby@alzheimers.org.uk
Chesterfield Office: 01246 223366 Email: derbyshirenorth@alzheimers.org.uk
Over 5000 Community Groups at Your Fingertips!

You will have seen this article in Connect 4 before but following Pete Edwards demonstration of the Community Directory Derbyshire we thought we would run it again to emphasise how important this online database is and to encourage everyone to take a look.

There are over 5000 community groups in Derbyshire doing everything from supporting people in times of need to providing fun activities for children and young people - not to mention the groups who tackle race and hate crime and those who offer a meeting place for like-minded people, be they train enthusiasts or keen walkers.

For the first time all of these groups, in their rich diversity, are available in one place - the Community Directory Derbyshire!

The Directory is available for everyone to explore and find out what goes on in the world of community and voluntary groups in Derby and Derbyshire. Community Directory Derbyshire was created by a partnership of local charities which provide support to community groups. The new online directory makes it easier to find groups by area, interest or type of support.

Register with Community Directory Derbyshire

Check now to see if your group is registered on Community Directory Derbyshire by visiting: www.communitydirectoryderbyshire.org.uk.

If you find your group isn’t listed, you can register via the website or by completing a simple form. It’s easy and FREE!

If your group’s details on the Directory are incomplete or incorrect just contact your local CVS (or other local infrastructure support agency such as Rural Action Derbyshire) to update your details or to provide additional information.

Spread the word about Community Directory Derbyshire

Please let your staff, colleagues, volunteers and service users - and anyone else that you think would find this information useful - know about Community Directory Derbyshire.

Community Directory Derbyshire can be found at:

www.communitydirectoryderbyshire.org.uk
NEXT FORUM MEETING

Tuesday 9th October 2012
10am
Church Gresley Methodist Church
York Road
Church Gresley
Swadlincote
DE11 9QQ

The main agenda item will be a briefing on the recently published white paper and draft bill which are open for consultation until 19th October 2012:

‘Caring for our future: reforming care and support’

We will also have a short workshop on ‘Understanding and Influencing Parliament’ so that we are all more able to lobby and campaign effectively.

To book a place or for more information please contact Pam Wood at South Derbyshire CVS on 01283 219761 or email pamw@sdcvs.org.uk