



## Swindon Local Involvement Network

Wednesday 25 August 2010

Hello LINKers!

Big local news this week with the Borough council's initial plans for the budget. Unsurprisingly the proposals include large cuts to day service funding, yet it is not yet clear how this will affect services. We will be sure to follow this and pass on information as we receive it.

### Let's be hearing from you!

#### Council announces budget 'plans'

Swindon LINK has asked the Borough Council for much more detail before it or local people could comment on the plans to reduce spending on day care services by £750,000 next year. The proposals include a review of day services and the introduction of more opportunity for individuals who meet the tight "eligibility criteria" to decide for themselves how to spend a personal budget they could be allocated as a "direct payment". You can see more (but not much more) by following this link <http://tiny.cc/blw5a>. Go to [www.swindonlink.org](http://www.swindonlink.org) to let us know what you think.



#### Do you find it easy and helpful?

Swindon wheelchair service have produced a new leaflet and want your opinions. Follow this link: <http://tiny.cc/p17y2> and then let us know what you think and whether it could be improved. It's only a draft so there is still time to make changes.

<p><b>Obtain independent advice</b> Independent Living Centre - Swindon 240000 Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 2PH Tel: 01793 512025 Open Monday - Friday, 10.00am - 5.00pm An independent telephone helpline that will provide advice about the right wheelchair for you, recommending the most suitable for your requirements and circumstances.</p> <p><b>Wheelchair Providers</b> The British Red Cross Wiltshire District - 01793 512025 Swindon PCT have a contract with the Red Cross for short term loans Care Plus Mobility - 01293 415527 Hearing &amp; Mobility - 01793 781313 (Outside Wiltshire) Niraxcare - 01249 819125 Optimum Mobility - 01666 840000</p> <p><b>Other Providers are available</b> Contact your local authority for a list of wheelchair providers in your area. Some may have waiting lists. Please do contact with your local authority to be referred to the British Red Cross who can provide a loan from their stock of specialist wheelchairs.</p>	<p><b>Shopability</b> The aim of Shopability is to help people with mobility difficulties to be able to shop out on the Internet in Swindon's town centre. Swindon Shopability is situated on the ground floor of the Weyers Car Park in Eldon Street. Tel: 01793 512025 Fax: 01793 512025 If you need advice on online, website or mobile telephone shopping, please contact the shopability team on 01793 512025 (In Swindon) or 01249 819125 (Outside Swindon) or email <a href="mailto:shopability@swindon.gov.uk">shopability@swindon.gov.uk</a> We're listening - tell us what you think We're listening to comments about our website. When things go well, you have a suggestion or you are unhappy, tell us so we can do it for you better.</p> <p><b>Terry Cooper</b> Wheelchair Service Manager 240222, 240222, Weyers Car Park Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 2PH Tel: 0303 333 1483 (09:00-17:00) All information on the Red Cross website and the Swindon PCT website are available.</p>	<p>Swindon LINK WHEELCHAIR &amp; SPECIAL SEATING SERVICE Your guide to getting a wheelchair</p> 
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#### (Good) Amateur photographers wanted

Do you take photographs in your spare time? Would you like to take some photographs for use in our publicity? We urgently require a voluntary photographer who could help us with photos that relate to health and social care. If this sounds like you then contact James at [j.brown@vas-swindon.org](mailto:j.brown@vas-swindon.org) or 497777.

#### Calling all Carers

What will have the greatest impact on improving carers' lives over the next four years? Here's your chance to tell Paul Burstow, the new Minister for Care Services, (described by the Guardian as "one of the most knowledgeable and effective politicians on older people's issues") who has asked for views by **20th September 2010** on the key priorities, supported by evidence of good practice. For more information and to view the letter visit: <http://tiny.cc/bwah9>.

#### Good news

**Over 1500 smokers kick the habit as Swindon smashes smoking quit goal.** Follow this link: <http://tiny.cc/lvy55>

## Useful information

### New guide for standards to expect from the regulation of Great Western Hospital



This guide is for you if you need treatment, care and support in an NHS hospital. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) explains important changes about the regulation of NHS hospitals. You can also read a summary of the new essential standards of quality and safety which NHS hospitals must keep to and how the CQC monitors these standards. Follow this link: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/usingcareservices/nhshospital.cfm> or let us know if you'd like us to send a copy.

### GWH Ward redecoration programme

GWH has temporarily closed Saturn Ward until 15 October to enable them to refurbish and redecorate the area and keep it in an excellent condition for patients and colleagues. Patients formerly cared for on Saturn (high dependency respiratory and general respiratory patients) will be treated on Teal Ward. If you have any queries or concerns regarding this, Jane Rowland – General Manager for Unscheduled Care – will be happy to help, email: [jane.rowland@gwh.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.rowland@gwh.nhs.uk)



## Events

**Saturday 11 September, 09.45-17.00, Learning for Life, Basepoint Business Centre, Westlea**

### Post Trauma Stress/Shellshock: Treatment and Support

The author David Kinchin describes Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as “the invisible injury”, while Admiral Sir John Woodward reassured many service personnel going to war in the Falklands that stress was “as normal as a cut finger”. The workshop will cover these issues and examine whether the understanding and consequences of trauma have changed since WWI, the Falklands and 9/11. Cost: £25.00 including refreshments and buffet.

**Wednesday 22 September, 6.30-9pm Barcelo Hotel, Godstow Drive, Oxford, OX2 8AL**

### Ridgeway Partnership AGM

Ridgeway Partnership (Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust) is a specialist organisation that provides a range of health care and social support services for people in Swindon who have learning disabilities and other long term complex care needs. Most of the people who use their services are adults who have moderate to severe learning disabilities. They also support adults with milder disabilities, along with a small specialist service for children. Confirm your attendance by contacting Sue Sinclair at [sue.sinclair@ridgeway.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.sinclair@ridgeway.nhs.uk) or call 01865 228153.

## LINK office contact

Voluntary Action Swindon supporting Swindon Local Involvement Network (LINK), 1 John Street, Swindon, SN1 1RT Tel. 01793 497777

Web [www.swindonlink.org](http://www.swindonlink.org) Email [enquiries@swindonlink.org](mailto:enquiries@swindonlink.org)

Psst! The LINK e-bulletin is a great way for people of Swindon to get involved with their social and health care. Pass it on! And please send us anything you would like included for future bulletins.

Data Protection Act 1998

We are sending you this email because you have registered your interest in Swindon Local Involvement Network (LINK) and we would like to keep you informed about relevant opportunities to be involved and other initiatives. However, if you would prefer not to receive information about the LINK in future, please contact us at 1 John Street, Swindon SN1 1RT. A copy of the Voluntary Action Swindon data protection policy is available on request. Charity No 287732 Company No 1604168 Registered office as above