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Somerset NHS Equality, Diversity and Patient Engagement Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on behalf of the Somerset Equality Delivery System (EDS) Group – a group of local health service organisations who are committed to delivering equality of service across Somerset. The purpose is to keep interested local groups up to date on equality and diversity progress within healthcare organisations in Somerset, as well as general patient engagement activities.

Top Stories!

Yeovil Hospital has reached the finals of the National Lottery's People's Projects competition on ITV and needs your help!

The hospital could win £50,000 to offer older patients creative and interactive activities such as music, art and gardening.

Voting is free but closes on **13th March!** Watch the film and vote for YDH at:

www.thepeoplesprojects.org.uk/projects/view/activities-for-older-patients-at-yeovil-hospital



Grant money for Accessible Information Standard

Our EDS Group has been successful in receiving grant money from NHS England to support the implementation of the Accessible Information Standard. We will be making a video which can be used across the Trusts to train staff around the Standard. We will be working in partnership with voluntary sector organisations and patients to produce the video and some accompanying posters and leaflets.

News from Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group


Somerset
Clinical Commissioning Group

Strategy and Objectives

We shared our draft equality and engagement strategy and objectives at the Somerset Engagement and Advisory Group (SEAG) in January. Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback. The final version will be published on our website on 1st April 2016. Our new objectives are focused on ensuring it is clear to patients, carers and the public how we have used feedback to improve services, communicating in an accessible way and involving people in our work.

Complaint Summaries

The CCG have started publishing summaries of complaints received with information about how they've been dealt with on the website. You can view them here:

<http://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/contact-us/complaints/summary-complaints/>

GP Training

We have recently provided equality training to staff at 2 GP practices in Somerset. We will continue to work with GP practices to support with their equality training needs.

News from Somerset Partnership



Somerset
Partnership

Equality Mission Statement

We are very pleased to announce that the new Equality and Diversity Mission statement has now been drafted, with the aim that it will soon be finalised and shared throughout the Trust.

This statement is a result of the hard work from the Equality and Diversity Staff Forum, and is a promise to all service users and staff that whilst within our trust they should expect to be treated fairly and without discrimination.

More Sexual Health Clinics for Somerset

Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded the contract to provide the new integrated sexual health service for Somerset, by Somerset County Council which is responsible for these services. The new service takes over from the Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CASH) service and the Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) clinics. There will be a range of services including walk-in clinics, a full range of contraception including emergency contraception, pregnancy testing, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing and support, chlamydia screening, advice on sexual abuse and abortion services, an advice line, and online booking. Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation will work in partnership with The Eddystone Trust who will provide services for targeted HIV prevention, targeted sexual health promotion and support to those living with or affected by HIV. For more information about the Sexual Health service, please email pals@sompar.nhs.uk.

ZING – new healthy living service for Somerset

<http://www.zingsomerset.co.uk/>

A contract to deliver the Council's healthy weight, physical activity and healthy eating service for the next four years has been awarded to Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) and Somerset Community Food (SCF). The new service will mean Somerset's residents – particularly in areas of greatest deprivation - can access the expert advice of a healthy lifestyle team, including health trainers, active lifestyle officers and children and families workers. For more information about the Zing service, please email pals@sompar.nhs.uk.

News from Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

Visiting at Musgrove Park Hospital

From January 14 2016, Musgrove Park Hospital launched an improved visiting policy, making it easier and more accessible for patients' family, friends and carers to visit.

It is widely recognised that support from family and friends as well as carers, in the form of hospital visits, is an integral part of any patient's recovery and that our move to open visiting, which takes place **from 10am to 9pm, seven days a week**, will allow more flexibility for visitors to help their loved ones, at a time that suits them.

This new policy also forms part of the hospital's aim to make the hospital more dementia friendly by giving relatives and carers the chance to spend more time with their loved one and have an active role in their care while they are in hospital.

In opening up visiting times we also need all visitors to be mindful that patients also need rest to help them get well as soon as possible. To help people understand our expectations of you when visiting we have developed a Visitors Charter which we ask you to adhere to when visiting our hospital Wards.

News from NHS England

Mental Health Services for Veterans

NHS England is undertaking a national engagement to inform the development of future mental health services for veterans.

The engagement will run until 31 March 2016 and NHS England is encouraging responses from a range of stakeholders, including veterans who have or have had a mental health illness, their families and carers, service charities, commissioners and providers offering treatment and support in this area.

To find out more and to access the engagement survey, follow this link:

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/veterans-mental-health-services>



News from Somerset Equality Officers Group

The Diversity Trust

The Diversity Trust have published a report to show how they have been working in partnership with Somerset Equality Officers Group to improve services for gay and bisexual men in Somerset. You can read the update here:



<http://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/news/2016/02/22/update-gay-bisexual-men-in-somerset/>

Date for your diary- Joint Consultation Event

After the success of the event in September 2015, SEOG are running a second event on the 15th September 2016. Further details will be available nearer the time, but if you know of any groups who would benefit from coming along then please get in touch through Equalities@somerset.gov.uk

Other items of interest...

NHS England have released the latest staff survey results

A full set of survey results are available here:

<http://www.nhsstaffsurveys.com/Page/1010/Home/NHS-Staff-Survey-2015/>

SEND Raising Aspirations workshops

A 2 hour workshop for practitioners working with young people about how you can support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to achieve their aspirations. Contact SENDreforms@somerset.gov.uk to book. Upcoming workshop dates:

10th March	10.30-12.30pm or 2.00-4.00pm	Yeovil
17th March	10.30-12.30pm or 2.00-4.00pm	Taunton
24th March	10.30-12.30pm or 2.00-4.00pm	Bridgwater

Autism Somerset Newsletter

The latest newsletter can be viewed here: www.autismsomerset.org.uk

Thank you for reading

If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch with Fiona Abbey on 01935 381999 or fiona.abbey@somersetccg.nhs.uk