Hello and welcome to our newsletter

This is the first of many quarterly newsletters for PCT and GP staff. Its purpose is to keep you all up to date with the major issues on the ALWCH agenda, and to let you know about forthcoming events and milestones on our journey to becoming a Community Foundation Trust.

As I’m sure you’re aware, we see our work as a collaborative process so any comments or suggestions you may have on this newsletter would be most welcome and can be forwarded to enquiries@alwch.nhs.uk

I hope you find the newsletter informative and interesting.

Dr Kate Fallon
Managing Director of Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Community Healthcare

CFT and what it means for you

Q What does the CFT Project mean for me?
A It means that you are part of one of the leading Community Provider Organisations in the country. ALWCH has been closely involved in work with the Department of Health since 2006, because we want to improve the services we offer other patients within the NHS.

Community Foundation Trusts members won’t just ‘own’ the trust – they will also have a say in its growth and development.

Q What does a member have to do?
A Members will be invited to attend Trust review meetings held at least once a year.

They elect Governors to represent their views at Board level.

They are invited to participate in surveys and focus groups to test out ideas about changes and development.

They build and strengthen close ties with the community.

Q Is the NHS Foundation movement a route to privatisation?
A Despite initial concerns, experience has proved that foundation trusts are intensely proud of their NHS status.

Q So why do we have to make efficiency savings?
A Our commissioners – acting on behalf of taxpayers who want value for money – want to update working practices to ensure they are relevant for 2008 and beyond.

Whenever the foundation trust makes efficiency savings, we can invest them back into improving services. Savings already made have enabled us to upgrade all of our Polaroid cameras to digital; to invest in the workforce transformation program; and to recruit additional staff at the Walk in Centre and in data quality and clinical governance.

Q What about my terms and conditions of service?
A An NHS Foundation Trust uses the NHS Superannuation Scheme. There will be no changes to salaries and your progress, through the KSF, will continue on the same basis as at present. You will automatically transfer into the new Community Foundation Trust from the PCT when we are authorised.

Q And when will that be?
A We are planning for Autumn 2009. Since we are in the first wave, there may be some unexpected delays but, so far, we are on course for our target.

Q Do I have to do anything about this?
A We hope you will choose to become a member. We hope you will respond when we formally consult all of our staff and local people about the establishment of the CFT. We have to consult because we are a public body.
The Long Term Conditions Care Group has 17 different services/professions within 8 major health areas – Cardiology, Respiratory, Diabetes, Neurosciences, Mobility Services, Community Matrons, Podiatry, and Cancer & Palliative Care Services.

These services are provided in patients’ homes and at local health clinics across the district. Many of the services are relatively new to the NHS and have been introduced because of the need to provide excellent all-round care as close to patients’ homes as possible. Improvements are ongoing and the introduction of more services to meet the requirements of the population are being developed.

A review of cardiology, diabetes, stroke and COPD will be taking place over the next twelve months.

Email: Elaine.Stefani@alwoct.nhs.uk

---

**Scheduled and Primary Care**

The Scheduled and Primary Care Group encompasses all appointment-based community services. The six service areas are:

- **Community Dental** for complex needs patients and patients with dental phobias.
- **District Nursing** covers TB, Tissue Viability, continence, ear care and out-of-hours treatment rooms.
- **Musculoskeletal/CATS** offers integrated assessment and treatment.
- **Counselling** offers brief therapy to adults in GP Practices, Health Centres and Clinics
- **Speech and Language Therapy** provides assessment in the community for adults with speech, language and/or swallowing difficulties.
- **Nutrition and Dietetics** includes a range of specialist services regarding the psychological, exercise and dietary support issues of weight management.

Email: Christine.whittaker@alwpct.nhs.uk

---

**Acute Care**

The Acute Care Group provides therapy support for people who are in-patients on wards at RAEI and Wrightington Hospital. We currently provide occupational therapy, orthotics, podiatry, speech and language therapy, and nutrition and dietetics. A range of specialist assessments and interventions are available that support people through the acute stage of their illness, aid recovery and prepare them for safe discharge.

We work closely with Social Services and Community colleagues to ensure that the right level of care and rehabilitation is in place to prevent re-admission and enable optimum recovery. This includes involving relatives and carers in decisions and the provision of any specialist equipment required.

As from 1st October 2008, the Acute Trust employed their own physiotherapists.

Email: Kate.Taylor@alwpct.nhs.uk

---

**Adult Learning Disabilities**

The Adult Learning Disability Care Group offers specialist community service for those requiring nursing, occupational therapy, speech & language therapy and physiotherapy.

The Multidisciplinary Teams include:

- **Additional Support Team** – For those aged 16+ with learning and behavioural disabilities
- **Adult Team** – Ensuring that adults with a learning disability receive the same access to health care as everyone else.
- **Complex Physical Health Care Team** – Ensuring adults with learning disability and complex physical health care needs receive the same access to health care as everyone else.
- **Downs Syndrome Team** – Ensuring best possible health for those with Downs Syndrome.
- **Hospital Liaison Team** – Support for learning disabled requiring hospital care.

- **Primary Care Access Team** - Ensuring primary care services meet the needs of the learning disabled population.
- **Transition Team** - Ensuring continuity of healthcare as patient grows from child to adult

The Care Group offers an Open Referral System. Please contact 01942 828777. Email: Stephanie.McComb@alwpct.nhs.uk

---

**Long Term Conditions**

The Long Term Conditions Care Group has 17 different services/professions within 8 major health areas – Cardiology, Respiratory, Diabetes, Neurosciences, Mobility Services, Community Matrons, Podiatry, and Cancer & Palliative Care Services.

These services are provided in patients’ homes and at local health clinics across the district. These services are relatively new to the NHS and have been introduced because of the need to provide excellent all-round care as close to patients’ homes as possible. Improvements are ongoing and the introduction of more services to meet the requirements of the population are being developed.

A review of cardiology, diabetes, stroke and COPD will be taking place over the next twelve months.

Email: Elaine.Stefani@alwoct.nhs.uk
Unscheduled Care

Staff of the Unscheduled Care Group provide round-the-clock access to, and delivery, of a range of healthcare services for everyone in the borough – residents and visitors – every day of the year.

Services provided include: GP Out of Hours service incorporating Nurse Triage, Leigh NHS Walk-in Centre, Homeless & Vulnerable Peoples Team, Hospital at Home Team, Falls services, Community Therapy services, Advanced Practitioners for Nursing & Residential Homes and the Assertive in Reach Team.

Many of the above services have been newly commissioned to enable care previously delivered in hospital to be provided in the patient’s own home and to improve access to urgent/emergency care.

Email Gail.Gaskell@alwpct.nhs.uk

Clinical Governance

The Clinical Governance Team consists of Johann Watson, Clinical Governance Manager; Morag Carmichael, Acting Clinical Governance Facilitator and Debra Harrop, Personal Assistant to Johann Watson. The team has a major role in assisting teams and departments to comply with Standards for Better Health. We also need to ensure that teams and departments have evidence available to demonstrate compliance with the standards.

The team is available to offer advice and support with general clinical governance issues and we are more than happy to attend team meetings and departments to raise awareness with regard to clinical governance.

The team are based at Bevan House and can be contacted on 482652 or 481472.

Children and Young People

The Children & Young People Care Group provides all community services for children in Ashton, Leigh & Wigan. Our aim is to help young people achieve the 5 outcomes from Every Child Matters.

Services are offered in many settings, including in the home, education environments, children’s centres, clinics and GP surgeries. Based at a number of different locations, these services include:

- Allied Health Professionals include Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech & Language and Audiology
- The Primary Child Mental Health team, which addresses Tier 1 and 2 Mental Health problems with children and offers training to multi-agency staff.
- Three Paediatric Community Matrons who each concentrate on a specific area – primary prevention, acute care or complex needs.
- Health Visiting and School Nursing Teams

Email Sue.Ball@alwpct.nhs.uk

Professional Advisors

The Professional Advisors are a multi-disciplinary team responsible for providing the organisation and staff groups with advice and guidance that is specific to individual clinical services.

The Professional Advisors’ main areas of responsibility are to:

- Provide advice on current, evidence based best practice for each clinical service.
- Advise on professional competencies and ensure that these are met.
- Interpret national, local and professional guidelines/standards and advise on their implementation.
- Identify individual and service level training needs.
- Support the organisation with the overall management of clinical services.
- Have involvement with recruitment and selection.
- Liaise with external agencies on behalf of each profession e.g. neighbouring organisations, universities etc.

Email Ann.Shuttleworth@alwpct.nhs.uk

Finance and Information Services

The Community Healthcare Finance team is based at Bevan House and provides a service on week days. Members of the team meet with budget holders and others to assist them in managing their resources effectively and in using the functionality of the integrated procurement and financial ledger system to maximum effect. The team also provides advice on financial performance, managing financial risk, Internal control, monetary issues and business cases, as and when required.

The service is delivered through a range of channels:

- Face to face contact (both at Bevan House and customers base)
- by email
- by telephone
- by support at relevant meetings

The Community Healthcare Information Services team is based at Cherrycroft Court in the centre of Wigan. The Service implements, trains and supports clinicians and managers to use clinical and administrative patient-based systems, such as the Child Health Computer System, the General Practice Out-of-Hours IT system and the national Lorenzo community information system. Information Services also works with managers to analyse their activity and performance against plans, develop the quality of information collected and used throughout Community Healthcare and develop supporting IT systems, where needed.

Information Services also hosts a Connecting for Health Accredited applications Help Desk, supporting users of Connecting for Health applications across Ashton, Leigh and Wigan, Bolton and Salford.

Email Keith.Dickinson@alwpct.nhs.uk

Human Resources

The Human Resource function is an executive function within the Operations and Development Directorate.

Our Workforce Strategy presents an exciting and challenging agenda for the next five years and beyond. Further developments will include an emphasis on workforce planning and development to recognise a truly flexible, mobile and competent workforce.

From an operational HR perspective, we have introduced the HR Business Partner Model to reflect the Care Group Management structure and to strengthen the commercial impact our role has.

The development of our workforce is key. With a dedicated development team and an array of specialist experts in a number of fields, we will continue to focus our efforts with this in mind.