

Network News

Issue 6 August 2016

Welcome to your new look Network News!

Network News is the newsletter for Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) in the Mansfield and Ashfield, and Newark and Sherwood Districts.

The newsletter is now reaching a wider audience than ever, so we decided to go for a new look and some new features.

This edition of Network News includes a financial warning on the current shortfall in NHS funding and outlines the ways in which we can help to address the problem. Patient Participation Groups can also play a vital role in this and raise awareness in their communities.

Each edition will now include 'In the Spotlight' which will focus on a service provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group (the part of the NHS which commissions and pays for services). This edition focuses on the Radiotherapy Car Scheme and the next edition will turn the spotlight onto DESMOND training for type II diabetes.

Network News can also help you to promote or celebrate activities carried out by your PPG and share your story. We look forward to hearing from you soon - see the back page for details.

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Use your NHS wisely - NHS Chief issues financial warning

Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has issued a warning about a financial shortfall in 2016/17. CCG chief officer, Dr. Amanda Sullivan, said the organisation needs to save £20 million this year; roughly twice their normal savings requirement.

Increased emergency hospital activity and prescription related costs are part of the reasons for the additional financial pressures.

“It is our role to manage the budgets to deliver health care to our local population. The CCG pays the hospital trusts each time someone attends A&E and we’ve already seen a significant increase in emergency admissions at King’s Mill Hospital in the first two months of the financial year – 576 more admissions than the same period the previous year. Mainly stays of 0-1 days with many discharged with just advice on the same day they attended and who could have been treated by their local GP or pharmacist.

Our A&E department is routinely reporting that patients are presenting with symptoms that could have been treated at home, at their GP practice or with some advice from a pharmacist.

- A GP appointment costs the NHS, as a whole, around £46
- An A&E visit for the same condition costs around £120.

Commissioners are reminding people:

- To use their local GP service or their local pharmacy.
- The NHS 111 service is available 24/7 for problems that are urgent but do not need emergency attention.
- To stop ordering repeat prescriptions they are no longer using.
- Around £1.2 million was wasted over a year on prescribed drugs that were not needed.
- In March to May 2016, nearly 700 GP appointments were unattended in just one GP practice in Mansfield and Ashfield.

Peter Robinson, chair of the Mansfield and Ashfield CCG Citizens Reference Panel said:

“The position is serious with the CCGs under close scrutiny and expected to recover the situation quickly. The public can respond to these concerns by thinking twice before they waste time of GP

practices, nursing and hospital staff time,

which is costly. We all have a part to play.”



**Mansfield and Ashfield
Clinical Commissioning Group**



All surgeries have had to operate the Friends and Family Test (FFT) since April 2015, which simply asks whether a patient (or parent/carer) would recommend the surgery following their consultation and then there is the option for people to explain their reasons for giving the answer they did.

It is statutory for ALL NHS general practice surgeries to have the FFT available to patients and as part of the process every practice **must** submit the FFT results each month to NHS England. The results are available to the public Across England, there is a lot of discussion about whether or not the FFT question actually provides any really useful information or not. Certainly it is an indication of what patients think about the quality of the service they have received but it is not much more than that. However, there is great value in looking at the free text responses; the reasons why patients gave the answer they chose. Although the free text responses are not submitted to NHS England there can be plenty of information for surgeries use to improve services for their patient population.

At the PPG Coffee Morning on 1st September the CRP launched an information pack which helped PPGs to get involved in looking at the FFT results, especially the free text responses. Responses from the FFT might reveal a trend over time that the group can then take up and work with the surgery which will benefit both patients and staff. With patient groups getting more involved with the FFT it is hoped that this will raise the awareness of the FFT in the practices and help practice staff to remember to submit results every month.

Use your NHS wisely - how you can help

Only order the prescriptions you actually need

If you have repeat prescriptions and have medications which are ordered but not used, ask your GP for a medications review.

In Mansfield and Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood, alone, it is estimated that £1.2 million was wasted over a year on prescribed drugs that were not needed.



Be a wise owl...



In the Spotlight

Our new regular feature on a service provided by your CCG

The Radiotherapy Car Scheme

Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group (the part of the NHS which commissions and pays for health services in our area) is working with local charity Ashfield Voluntary Action to deliver a scheme to support patients from Mansfield and Ashfield undergoing radiotherapy at City Hospital.

The Radiotherapy Car Scheme provides free transportation to hospital for those radiotherapy patients in the greatest need. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has to use its resources wisely and so the scheme targets radiotherapy patients whose personal circumstances mean that hospital transport would be particularly difficult for them, or because they have additional health issues.

The scheme has been running for over three years and in the first two years enabled 41 patients to attend 691 radiotherapy sessions, 13 chemotherapy sessions, 108 visits to consultants, 6 follow-up appointments and 1 emergency visit to A&E following treatment. To date we have now helped 63 patients; which means that five months into this year we have already exceeded the number of people helped in previous years.

The scheme was originally developed and funded by the 3Cs cancer support group and following an extremely successful pilot scheme, has since been funded by Mansfield and Ashfield CCG.

The Radiotherapy Department identifies patients who would particularly struggle to attend their radiotherapy treatment without the help of the car scheme and refers them to Ashfield Voluntary Action.

This service has reduced stress and anxiety for patients at a very difficult time. The volunteer drivers have been specifically chosen to work on this project for their empathy, reliability and dedication to these patients. All drivers are DBS checked and references and checks on their vehicle and licence are taken. Many of our drivers have lost loved ones to cancer and want to support others going through the process.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver please contact:

Jan Richardson - Ashfield Voluntary Action - 01623 555 551

Upcoming Events



These are some of the upcoming events in the area. If you would like to promote your event then please contact:

Sarah Taylor at Ashfield Voluntary Action - Tel: 01623 555 551

s.taylor@ashfieldvoluntaryaction.org.uk

2nd Monday of every month 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm

Carers Drop-in Session (12 - 1.00pm) & Carers Support Group (1.00 - 3.00 pm)

Ashfield Health & Wellbeing Centre, Portland Street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7AE

22nd September 2016 from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Annual Public Meeting

One Call Stadium, Quarry Lane, Mansfield, NG18 5DA

28th September 2016 - 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Promoting Exercise, Activity and Health for the Over 50s

Ashfield Health & Wellbeing Centre, Portland Street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7AE

28th September 2016 - 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Step-by-Step Project Launch

Festival Hall Leisure Centre, Hodgkinson Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7DJ

10th October 2016 from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon

Harwood Close PPG & Practice Health Event

Harwood Close Community Hall, Skegby Lane, Sutton-in-Ashfield, NG17 4PD

10th October 2016 from 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm

In support of World Mental Health Day - Step-by-Step Project Event

Ashfield Health & Wellbeing Centre, Portland Street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7AE

11th October 2016 from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm

CRP Workshop - focus on cancer

The Summit Centre, Pavilion Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7LL

26th October 2016 from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Ashfield House PPG & Practice Health Event

Forest Road Methodist Church, Annesley Woodhouse, NG17 9HH

13th December 2016 from 5.30 pm to 8.00 pm

PPG & Citizens Reference Panel Christmas Celebration

Kevin Bird Suite, One Call Stadium, Quarry Lane, Mansfield, NG18 5DA

EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY



**Remember - 18th November
European Antibiotic Awareness Day**

As many of us are aware there is a worldwide need to reduce the use of antibiotics. The World Health Organisation (WHO) says that antibiotic resistance could have devastating consequences for worldwide public health. We could once again see diseases that were once curable becoming killers. WHO insists that the threat is not a problem for the future but is happening here and now and could affect anyone, anywhere, any age.

In 2014 WHO published a report with data from 114 countries worldwide on antibiotic resistance. The evidence clearly demonstrated that drug-resistant strains of bacteria and viruses are common across the world, it is not a problem in one country, on a single continent; but everywhere.

Antibiotic resistance in seven bacteria that are responsible for common and potentially serious diseases were looked at in the report. These bacteria are found in bloodstream infections (sepsis), diarrhoea, pneumonia, urinary tract infections and gonorrhoea. The studies found that there is resistance to the antibiotics that are used as a last resort, when others fail.

Reducing the use of antibiotics is a priority for the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) across the Mansfield and Ashfield region and PPGs can assist in sharing the messages. Every year there is a European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) on 18th November. The UK government, under Public Health England, has developed its own awareness campaign called Antibiotic Guardian.

Patient groups can raise awareness of the proper use of antibiotics and the potentially devastating consequences of antibiotic resistance in surgeries by talking to patients and providing information on notice boards and on patient information screens, especially on and around 18th November. Both the Antibiotic Guardian campaign and the European Antibiotic Awareness Day provide some resources including posters and leaflets:

GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/european-antibiotic-awareness-day-resources>

NHS Choices: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety/amr/eaad/>

European Antibiotic Awareness Day: <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/eaad/>

Contributing to Network News

Network News is produced quarterly and sent to every GP Practice in our area.



We are happy to include content from PPGs, so if you want to publicise an event held by your PPG, or share information about what your PPG is doing, please get in touch.

There is no charge for including a notice or article in Network News, but it must be relevant to our readers and to what we are trying to do.

If you want us to include an article or notice, give us plenty of notice if you want forward dates to be included. Sometimes articles are carried forward to the next issue if we are short on space.

Tips on submitting an article or information

Articles should be no more than 300 words, but can direct readers on to additional information should they be interested in knowing more.

Event notifications require clear date, time and venue information along with who it's for and what it's about and any special requirements.

We ask contributors to pay particular attention to the language used remembering it is to be read by people from all different backgrounds

Please avoid jargon and acronyms wherever possible. We may need to edit material, but will always seek to maintain the spirit of all articles.

**If you have any news items, or want to promote events for your PPG
please send items to Sarah Taylor**

Ashfield Voluntary Action

Telephone 01623 555 551

Email s.taylor@ashfieldvoluntaryaction.org.uk