

LINK News



Issue 3 - November 2008

Launching the Plymouth LINK

November marks the launch of the Plymouth Local Involvement Network:

The Support Team and volunteers will be attending events throughout the city to talk people about the LINK and you can:

- ☺ Find out about the LINK and what it will do
- ☺ Give us your views on local health and social care services
- ☺ Find out about the different ways you can get involved with the LINK
- ☺ Have a look at the proposals for how the Plymouth LINK will look and give us your feedback
- ☺ Pick up some goodies

See page 4 to find out when we are in your neighbourhood.

Plymouth's views on Local Services

As part of the launch, the LINK is asking people about their priorities for improving health and social services. We are trying to get a snapshot of what people in Plymouth think of services and how they could improve. This will give us some priorities to begin to work with. We will be producing a report, which will be available for anyone to see.



New LINK Logo

Did you notice the new LINK logo? It was designed by Jacques Mynhardt from Plymouth, the winner of our logo competition

If you would like the LINK to meet your group or the groups/communities you work with, get in touch. We can come along and tell you about the LINK and ways you can get involved. We would like to have a point of contact for more groups and communities in Plymouth so that we can stay in touch.

For more information about ways to get involved, read on

There are now some new opportunities within the Plymouth LINK. Where could you fit in?

Stewardship Group

Driving the LINK forward: -

Meeting every month for about 2 hours

Guiding the work of the LINK based on feedback from members and local issues

Overseeing the LINK budget

Reporting on what local people need and asking for change

Protecting the values of the LINK

Talking to the LINK about its work and success

Having training and support to be part of the Stewardship Group

Ambassadors

Supporting and representing the LINK in different ways: -

Speaking to people about their views of health and social care services

Promoting the work of the LINK and getting people involved

Presenting the LINK at events

Representing the LINK at meetings/groups and reporting back to the LINK about health and social care issues

Getting involved as and when you can

Having training and support to be an ambassador

Focus Groups

Meeting for a set period of time to think about -

How to improve specific services

How to improve areas of the LINK, for example LINK information, LINK membership

New services being developed

A request for the LINK to give its thoughts on a new policy or strategy for health or social care services



Some of the LINK Transition Group at a recent meeting

Visiting Team

Visiting places where health or social care services are provided

Looking at how services are run

Talking to service users to find out what they think

Reporting back to the LINK about what you have found out

Helping to improve services for people who use them

Getting involved as and when you can

LINK Participants

Receiving regular information about the LINK

Giving your views on health or social care services you have used

Getting involved as and when you can in consultations about services that interest you

Representing the groups you work with on the LINK and making sure people have opportunities to get involved

Experiences of a LINK Ambassador



My name is Gennifer and I have been involved with the LINK for some months now.

I attend Transition Group meetings on a monthly basis; we are a group of people who pool ideas on the way forward for the LINK to improve services in Plymouth. This group will end soon and a permanent Stewardship Group will be elected. At the moment we are trying to get people involved and be inclusive and diverse so that everyone has an opportunity for involvement. Sometimes minority groups are forgotten when consultations are done, like gypsies and travellers and asylum seekers and refugees, but everyone's point of view is valuable.

I am a LINK Ambassador and have been involved with various promotional work such as designing and making leaflets; getting the public's attention; attending events; and speaking about what the LINK is and how people can get involved. I have also distributed leaflets at various shops and businesses; I even gave some to taxis and black cabs.

A few months ago I went along to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting; it was the Health and Wellbeing Panel. I was an observer and I found it very interesting because it gives you an insight into how the overview panel tackles issues in this sector. This panel actually listens to the concerns that people have in Plymouth.

I have attended several meetings to give my views, including *Disabled-Go*, a new website for people with disabilities, the *Improving Health in the Southwest* consultation and a meeting arranged by the police to work with communities.

I juggle family life, work and many other things and this is exciting. To me, at this age, I need to be using my brain and keeping active, because this will allow me to live a healthier lifestyle.

Come and Join Us!

Ambassadors and the Communication Officer will continue to be at events around the city as an ongoing part of our launch. We will also be visiting a number of supermarkets and community centres around the city. We'll keep you posted about these. Why not come along and give us feedback or sign up to be more involved?

City Centre Launch, Place de Brest	1 st November 10am – 4pm	Working Links, St Budeaux Square	25 th November 10am – 12pm
Transition event, Plymouth Guildhall	14 th November 10am – 2pm	Working Links, St Budeaux Square	2 nd December 10am – 12pm
Working Links, St Budeaux Square	18 th November 10am – 12pm	Carers event Astor Room, Plymouth Guildhall	5 th December 10.30am – 3.30 pm
DAN Disability Network event, Welcome Hall, Devonport	19 th November 10.30 am – 3.30 pm	Mutley Street Fair, Houndiscombe Road	5 th December 11am – 7 pm

Consultation opportunity for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards are part of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. From April 2009, the safeguards will apply to individuals in residential or hospital care who do not have the mental capacity to consent to their care. A small group of these people will need to be subject to restrictions and restraint as part of their care to protect them from harm. Although the restrictions are in the person's best interests, the level of restriction may contribute to the person being deprived of their liberty. According to the Human Rights Act 1998, deprivation of liberty is only lawful under certain limited circumstances. The safeguards will ensure that people's Human Rights are upheld within the care home or hospital setting, and that care which deprives a person of his liberty is only authorised when it is necessary to protect that person from harm.

Plymouth City Council and Primary Care Trust are currently working toward implementing the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in time for April 2009. This process will include consultation of service users, patients and carers who may be affected by the safeguards including those with learning disabilities, acquired brain injuries and mental health needs including dementia. There will be opportunities to give feedback on written information provided to those affected and training needs of interested groups in Plymouth.

If you or your organisation would like to have input into the implementation of the safeguards in Plymouth, please contact Roslynn Azzam, project officer, on 01752 305193. Any expression of interest would be very welcome.

A NEW SERVICE FOR PLYMOUTH

PIPs = Plymouth Involvement and Participation Service

PIPs is a new opportunity for anyone who:



- Uses or has used mental health services
- Cares for someone who uses mental health services

PIPs will talk to people who have experience of mental health services about:

- How services can improve and their priorities for change
- How people are already involved in improving services (for example, with the Local Implementation Team (LIT)) and what works and what isn't working
- Whether they would like to be part of monitoring and improving services and what training and support they may need.

PIPs will make sure that mental health service users and carers are at the heart of monitoring and reviewing services, working alongside the people who influence services.

For more information, or to register your interest in getting involved in PIPs, please contact Vicky at:

 Tel: 01752 202407
 email info@plymouth-link.co.uk



Claire and Vicky outside the new unit





We have moved!

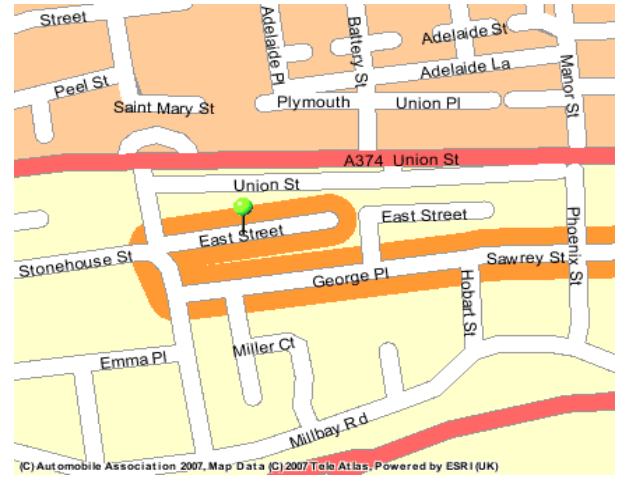
The LINK Support Team has moved along the corridor to a larger unit with natural daylight. We are still in the HQ Building, but our address has changed to:

Unit 15, HQ Building,
237 Union Street,
Plymouth,
PL1 3HQ.

Our phone number, email and web address remain unchanged

How you can give us your views:

-  By phoning 01752 202407
-  By emailing info@plymouth-link.co.uk
-  By writing to Unit 15, HQ Building, 237 Union Street, Plymouth, PL1 3HQ
-  Visit the LINK webpage www.plymouth-link.co.uk



This information is available in other formats. Please contact: 01752 202407

هذه المعلومات متوفرة في لغات و أشكال أخرى.

الرجاء الاتصال: 01752 202407

نہم زانیاریانہ بہدہست دہکھون بہ زمانہکان و شیوازہکانی تر.

我們提供此資訊其他語言的翻譯版本以及不同格式 請致電: 01752 202407

我们提供此信息其它语言的翻译版本以及不同格式 请致电: 01752 202407

INFORMACJE TE DOSTĘPNE SĄ W RÓŻNYCH JĘZYKACH ORAZ
FORMATACH. PROSIMY O KONTAKT POD NUMEREM: 01752 202407

ESTA INFORMAÇÃO ESTÁ DISPONÍVEL NOUTRAS LÍNGUAS E FORMATOS.
POR FAVOR CONTACTE: 01752 202407

این اطلاعات به زبانهای دیگر و اشکال دیگر در دسترس است. در صورت نیاز، لطفاً با این شماره
تلفن تماس حاصل نمائید: 01752 202407

Do you have anything to say?

Please tell us if -

- ✓ There is information you would like to see in this Bulletin
- ✓ You have an comments or feedback on the Bulletin