

NHS Update - February 2010

New children's speech therapy service

The next step towards a Wiltshire-wide speech and language therapy service for children and young people has been taken with the announcement by NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council, that the tender has been awarded to Wiltshire Community Health Services.

Wiltshire Community Health Services are one of the three existing providers, and entered a competitive tendering process in Autumn of last year. After evaluating all the tenders submitted, the joint council/NHS commissioners decided that Wiltshire Community Health Services' bid was the most effective. The new service will begin in early summer 2010.

Malmesbury NHS dental places extended

Whitecross Dental Care Ltd, who manage Malmesbury's new NHS dental practice, have announced that they are now ready to extend the offer of registration for available NHS dental places, as promised at the beginning of January 2010.

More support to stop smoking in Devizes

Support for stopping smoking is now being provided at Devizes Community Children's Centre on Wednesdays between 2pm and 4pm.

NHS Wiltshire has organised the free support at the Centre because it is a convenient, family-friendly place for people to meet while their children are able to play and be well cared for. No appointment is needed, and the NHS advisors provide support for parents, pregnant mums and dads-to-be, grandparents and anyone else in the family home who wants advice from a specialist stop smoking advisor.

Norovirus - keep bugs at bay by staying away

NHS Wiltshire has today issued advice on how to avoid and contain norovirus infection, the most common cause of vomiting and diarrhoea at this time of year.

Norovirus causes 'winter vomiting', which can be a nasty experience for those affected, but which is normally a short-lived virus from which people normally recover after around 3 days.

The condition is highly contagious unless great care is taken to contain it is taken to contain it. For this reason, NHS Wiltshire is asking people not to visit friends and relatives in hospital if they have had diarrhoea, vomiting or 'flu like' symptoms over the last few days. This request is normal practice at this time of year, and helps protect patients from the risk of infection when they are already unwell.

Health & Wellbeing Fairs

NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council are working together to deliver a series of Health & Wellbeing Fairs across the county, to highlight the particular health issues for each of the community areas. The Fairs will give local people an opportunity to speak to health and

wellbeing professionals, take some basic health and fitness tests and learn about healthy lifestyles. This will be followed by a workshop that looks more closely at the health needs of the community in order for Area Boards, Partnerships and other local groups to identify priorities to help improve the health and well being of the community.

Please contact your local Community Area Manager for details of the event in your area.
jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs.uk

Joint Engagement on Wiltshire's Single Equality Schemes – Engagement Event

Everyone should have equal opportunities and be free from discrimination and harassment. This is the aim of Wiltshire's public sector organisations who are inviting people to comment on equality issues.

Wiltshire Council, NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service have joined forces to make it easier for people to feedback their views on the organisations' work to promote equality. By working together they can also take joint action and provide consistent services which are fair for all.

An engagement event will be held on 24 February at the Sports Club in Devizes for people to find out more and give their views face to face. Anyone interested in attending can e-mail jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs.uk for more information.

Community groups and organisations can also request a visit from one of the partners by contacting Wiltshire Council's corporate equality and diversity team at equalities@wiltshire.gov.uk on 0300 456 0100 or text phone on 01225 712500.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this piece of work can do so by:

- By filling in a form at one of the libraries across Wiltshire
- By e-mailing equalities@wiltshire.gov.uk
- By completing a survey on-line at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk / www.wiltshirepct.nhs.uk / www.wiltshire.police.uk / www.wiltshirefirebrigade.com

The consultation will run until March 2, 2010.

The next Board meeting will be held on **24 March 2010, in the Conference Room at Southgate House, Devizes**

Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshire.nhs.uk or on request from Maggie Goodman, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733827, email: maggie.goodman@wiltshire.nhs.uk)

For further information or copies of documents referred to above, please contact Jo Howes, Community Engagement Manager, 01380 733929 or jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs.uk