

NHS LANARKSHIRE
NORTH COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP
NORTH LOCALITY

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Subject: Update Report to the Local Area Partnership

1. NHS Lanarkshire Wide Update

1.1. Community X-Ray Consultation

Following the Special LAP on 20th May, discussion is continuing about the Community X-ray provision in NHS Lanarkshire. The next stage of the process is to use the data gathered at the Community Forum and LAP meetings to compose the final options to go forward, and then use an agreed scoring mechanism to choose a preferred option. All of this will be arbitrated by the Scottish Government and the Health Council. In addition, public members will be involved in this process to ensure transparency.

Once the final options and preferred option are identified, a formal three-month consultation process will be initiated, which will include further public meetings and many other options for consultation with the local populations.

1.2. Out Of Hours Consultation

At the Special Lap on 20th May, we did not manage to have a representative from Out of Hours present, but it was agreed that no decisions would be taken until after the July meeting. Out of Hours representatives will be attending the meeting to gain feedback from all members of the LAP on any other options that should be considered as part of the review.

2. Locality Update

2.1. Diabetic Retinal Screening

At the Special LAP meeting on 20th May, some issues were raised regarding Diabetic Retinal Screening, so Ann Dugan, Diabetic Screening Team Leader has provided an update on the service:

The service provided in Central Health Centre is for patients from both Cumbernauld and Kilsyth and operates on a Thursday and Friday. All patients over the age of 12 with Diabetes are invited to attend the service. Previously, patients attended the clinic at the Time Capsule in Coatbridge, which covers the Monklands area.

If the photographs of the patient are not of a high enough quality to view the retina (normally due to cataracts, corneal abrasions or pupils not dilated enough), they require to attend for a slit lamp examination. The slit lamp is a very expensive piece of equipment and not transportable, so these patients will need to attend at the Time Capsule for this procedure.

To put this in perspective, there are around 1200 patients in Cumbernauld and Kilsyth ready to be screened, with less than 100 of these requiring a slit lamp screening.

The service started in April 2010, hitting full capacity on 17th April, with 224 patients booked, 182 patients attending (81%), 39 patients not attending (17%) and 3 patients cancelling at the last minute (2%) over the course of the month.

2.2. Youth Sexual Health Service

The Youth Sexual Health Service, started in Central Health Centre during September 2009. This is a confidential nurse-led drop in service specifically for young people, which has been advertised in conjunction with the health needs assessment for young people. The numbers have increased quickly and this service now has attendance comparable with some areas which have been running for a few years. The opening time for the service has recently been increased to accommodate the demand. The nurses are seeing young people for a variety of sexual health issues such as contraception (including emergency contraception), screening for STI's (e.g. Chlamydia) and follow up for positive STI's.

3. Health Improvement

3.1. Community Safety Alcohol Project

Concerns were raised by police, education, social work and community groups over the use of alcohol by young people in the locality. As a result, funding was identified from the Healthy Living Initiative to address this issue in the following ways:

Bottle Watch

The Bottle watch initiative is aimed at reducing street drinking and its related crime and disorder. The methodology is that licensees from licensed premises in hotspot areas will be invited to join the 'Bottlewatch' initiative. This scheme involves marking the alcohol beverages preferred by under age youths with a tamper proof sticker. Each sticker is individual to the particular premises. Three popular brands of alcohol will be labelled i.e. Buckfast, Cider, and Fizzy Wines. The staff at each of the premises will apply one of these labels to the neck of each bottle using a label gun. Seizures of alcohol and discarded bottle finds can then be tracked back to the premises that sold them. Outcomes are that retailers are more confident in questioning dubious large sales to adults and also take more care in checking customer's ages. Early indications from pilot sites are that sales have been tightened up and individuals purchasing alcohol for youths are being identified.

An environmental scan will be carried out before the initiative begins, during and on completion and a 'clean up' of these areas will be carried out by NLC.

Z Cards

Information cards will be produced for the Police to distribute to young people to signpost them to diversionary activities and sources of help and information regarding a variety of issues.

Multi Agency Training

Training has been organised for 25 staff from Social Work, NHSL, CL&D, NLC children's homes, YMCA, CONNECT and the Police. This will ensure that staff in all local agencies feel confident in raising the issues of alcohol and drug misuse with young people and each agency tackles the issue in the same coordinated fashion.

Drama

Three high schools in the areas defined by Bottle Watch, as well as the local Children's Home and the YMCA, have been offered a series of drama workshops to raise awareness of alcohol issues and explore attitudes relating to this. Two other high schools have been offered a play (Acceptance) to address these issues.

3.2. Community Allotments

To improve mental health, healthy eating, and physical activity in local communities, 13 educational establishments are piloting their own allotment projects, funded through the Healthy Living Initiative. This pilot aims to involve pupils in the growing of their own produce and links the process into Curriculum for Excellence. The pilots will run from February to October 2010.

The Allotment Pilot Proposal was issued to all local educational establishments asking them to note their interests. Those who responded were then given the soil (1 ton bags), tools, waterproof suits and seeds/bulbs to establish their own projects.

To date, all establishments have planted their crops and we are hopeful for a successful harvest. Some of the establishments have used local community partners for advice on growing. We are hopeful that this pilot will:

- raise awareness about the process of growing your own produce
- Promote both the individual and environmental benefits of growing your own produce
- Encourage healthy eating and physical activity
- Encourage cross generational work

If the pilot is successful, links will be made with the local allotment society to try to expand the project to cover a much wider range of the community.

4. Conclusions

The LAP members are asked to note the content of this report for information.