

UPDATE
Friday 16th July

The future of the NHS and Bradford LINK

The new Government wants to change the way health and social care services are run. It has written a **White Paper** which is its ideas of some big changes it thinks should happen to make the NHS better. The paper is called *Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS*.

A **White Paper** is something the government writes letting people know what it is going to do before it takes those things to the House of Parliament and MPs vote to make them law.

The White Paper includes a lot of changes so it is not possible to write a summary of everything that has been said. We will keep you up-to-date on how these proposals might affect you and the health and social care services you use. Two big changes are:

- 1) The new powers that GPs (local doctors) will have.
- 2) The start-up of a new organisation called Healthwatch which will replace LINKs.

Follow this link to read Bradford LINK's summary of these ideas written in the White Paper.

<http://www.bradfordlink.org.uk/whitepapersummary1>

If you want a copy of the summary in a different format please call Bethan on 01535 665258 or email

bethan@bradfordlink.org.uk

Have your say on World Mental Health Day

The Mental Health Work Group is meeting to talk about what should happen on World Mental Health Day this year.

Wednesday 29th July
10am-12pm
The Cellar Project
Fairfield Road
Shipley
BD18 4QP

If you would like to attend you can call Marcella on 01535 665258 or email

Marcella@bradfordlink.org.uk

Taking action on dignity



A group of our **dignity champions** met this month to look at how they can take action on some of the

issues raised at the Dignity Champions Network. The workgroup is made up of people who work for health or social care services and the people who use them. At the meeting on July the 7th, our champions talked about two big concerns.

Staff training

Champions in this group talked about how they can make sure people working at health and social care services are getting the right training to help ensure they are treating the people they care for with dignity and respect.

The people in this group said they wanted to make sure that appropriate dignity training is offered to health and social care workers in the district. They want to make sure any training offered is to a good standard and find out if

staff members are involved in creating the training programmes and making sure it works.

Leaving hospital

The group talked about ways of making sure people leave hospital safely and with dignity in Bradford and Airedale. Hospitals and voluntary organisations need to improve the way they work together. However our champions think more money needs to be invested in making this happen. Group members highlighted the patient and carers panel at Airedale hospital as a good example of how volunteers can work with hospitals.

Group members also think there should be a drop-off point for people to leave equipment that they no longer need. This would be to save hospitals money and allow other people to make use of the equipment. Bradford LINK will write a report which will be available soon.

If you want to know more about this group you can call Marcella on 01535 665258 or email Marcella@bradfordlink.org.uk