

WBC Eligibility Criteria

West Berks Council (WBC) recently held a consultation on the eligibility criteria to access social care services.

WBNA's submission included that:

- WBC is one of only very few council's setting a 'critical' need only threshold.
- The government appears intent to set national eligibility criteria at both 'critical' and 'substantial' levels in the near future.
- This will reflect the practice of most local authorities, which set their threshold at the 'substantial', rather than 'critical' level, tackling the current post-code lottery.
- We can see no reason why WBC should delay moving its eligibility criteria to 'substantial'.
- We are aware of individuals not able to access their beds, or their food or bathing and toilet facilities, whose needs have not been met by the WBC, as their needs were not considered as 'critical'.
- We regard all such situations as unacceptable and would ask Councillors to consider if they would wish to be treated in this way should they personally find themselves in such a situation.
- WBNA therefore calls on WBC to change its eligibility threshold to include 'Substantial' a.s.a.p.

Hydrotherapy and specialist rehab gym

West Berks Therapy Centre (WBTC) Board, a social enterprise developed by WBNA, has decided to press ahead

and establish a specialist rehab gym to serve Newbury, Thatcham and surrounding areas while negotiations continue to secure a suitable plot that would also house a community hydrotherapy pool. The proposed power-assisted gym will:

- provide inexpensive, professionally supervised rehab for people no longer qualifying for NHS physio,
- provide similarly for those with deteriorating conditions, delaying the need for NHS interventions,
- provide therapy for people with sight impairment and weight management needs who find conventional 'energetic' gyms unsuitable.

WBTC is seeking letters of support from potential user groups interested in the gym project. For more information please either call John on 01635 33582 or email johnholtbsc@aol.com

WBNA combined open meeting

WBNA held a very successful combined open meeting of Thames Valley Neuro Alliances where we welcomed reps from the Bucks Alliance of Neuro Organisations, Oxfordshire Neuro Alliance and the Sequela Foundation (East Berks). At the meeting Aarti Chapman Associate Director, Strategic Clinical Network and Senate NHS England (Thames Valley) Area Team gave a presentation on the NHS view of how a 'Thames Valley Neuro Network' would work and all the Alliances gave presentations on priorities to meet neurological needs. The meeting was well attended by our member groups and proved a fantastic

opportunity to inform a very influential member of the new NHS structure about our joint priorities and ideas for improving neuro services across Thames Valley. We very much look forward to working closely with Aarti Chapman and her team.

Thames Valley Neuro Network

NHS Thames Valley has now launched the new regional Neuro Clinical Network, which will pull together best practice ideas for commissioners to use across Bucks, Oxon and Berks. We plan to make an active contribution to this, representing patient and carer needs at every opportunity. To get involved contact John on 01635 33582 or email johnmholtbsc@aol.com

Your coping strategies could help others

Our focus group on the afternoon of 14th October will be on 'Coping when health and social care systems falter'. To register an interest contact John on 01635 33582 johnmholtbsc@aol.com
We had also been planning a focus group, on Palliative Care but because of the Government's plan to scrap the Liverpool Care Pathway we will listen to readers' suggestions before we proceed. Please send in your thoughts.

Berks West Long Terms Conditions Board

We congratulate the Berkshire West LTC Board for producing enough funds for both an epilepsy nurse specialist and a service for people with ME/CFS and for pressing ahead quickly to fill these important gaps in services soon. Also, all the local neuro nurse specialists have now been brought together into one team, another good move, ensuring better cover. We approve of the way that

every project the LTC Board sets up is involving patient and carer input.

Local Healthwatch

The local Healthwatches in Wokingham, Reading and West Berks are getting under way and starting to consider their priorities. We encourage readers to feed ideas for priorities directly to these new Healthwatch groups and will pull together any neuro-related priorities sent to us.

Parkinson's Events Coming Up

7th Aug, 4th Sept & 2nd Oct:

- Lunch meeting's all held at the Toby Carvery, Newbury at 12.00

16th Aug, 20th Sept & 18th Oct:

- Buffet/branch social meeting's all held at Newbury RB Legion, 12.00

18th October:

- Coffee Morning Hungerford Town Hall 10am-12.30pm

Every Wednesday:

- Hydro sessions 1.30pm & Chair Exercises 10.00 am

For details contact Mary 01635 869532

WBNA Dates for your diary

Open meeting dates for 2013:

Nov 14th Tim Goadby Brain Injury Rehab T'st 1.45 for 2 pm, St Joseph's, Newbury

Other dates:

Sept 26th WBNA AGM 7 for 7.30 pm at the Holiday Inn, Padworth

Oct 14th Focus Group 2 pm Padworth

Mar 6th 2014 Conference Wokefield Pk 'Neuro rehab: facts, fears, future'

West Berkshire Neurological Alliance

2 Clayhill Crescent Newbury RG14 2NP

Tel: 01635 33582 Fax: 01635 569177

Email: secretary@wbna.org.uk

www.wbna.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1081021