

*WBNA Conference Facts, Fears, Future*

Congratulations to Mike Wilson and his team for putting on a first class conference on 6th March. The programme was full of interest. Several speakers have agreed to put their presentations onto our web site,

[www.wbna.org.uk](http://www.wbna.org.uk)

We look forward to people affected by a neurological condition benefiting from so much knowledge being passed out to so many local clinicians, support volunteers and others.

*WBNA Open Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March*

Our March open meeting was held at the West Berks Therapy Centre, which added useful focus to the exchange of ideas with Chris Washbrook and Catherine Sykes from Berkshire Healthcare Trust. The closer the voluntary sector can understand the NHS, and vice versa, the better the outcomes for patients and their families.

*West Berkshire Therapy Centre*

West Berkshire Therapy Centre is now open and we were delighted to sponsor the cost of one of the main items of equipment. The Centre offers exercise therapy for those affected by disability or impairment, physical or sensory and will be of great help to many with a neurological condition who may find it uncomfortable, unsafe or impossible to take enough exercise. The equipment at the Centre provides repetitive movements, stretching and

strengthening muscles, improving circulation, helping weight control, fending off other health problems, also improving feelings of well-being. A physiotherapy assessment confirms the exercise programme to follow to meet individual goals.

The Centre has space for carers, wheelchairs, etc, with good parking and prices based on what clients can afford.

It is already making a difference to those with a range of neurological conditions. To find out more visit 7, Clerewater Place, Lower Way, Thatcham RG19 3RF, phone 01635 864561 or view

[www.westberkshiretherapycentre.org.uk](http://www.westberkshiretherapycentre.org.uk)

*National Dataset for Neurology*

We are delighted that the first national neurological database has been produced, see: <http://bit.ly/1ddpsMm>. This fills a major information vacuum about how the services provided for neuro patients. That said, it is not comprehensive and measures 'activity' rather than what to do to meet the needs of patients.

*Thames Valley Neuro Network*

More locally, the 'mapping' of neurological services in Thames Valley is about to be published. We look forward to the opportunity to comment. Each NHS area needs a combination of leadership and vision, enough to drive the radical reform that will bring service

quality and quantity into fair balance for all neuro patients.

The NHS is promoting yet another new care model, 'The House of Care'. This embraces many of the 'vision' points we've listed on our leaflets for the last 16 years so, in that sense, it's very welcome! The Thames Valley Strategic Networks are hosting a Long Term Conditions event on this on Tuesday June 17th with local and national speakers. To find out more contact John Holt on 01635 33582 or email [johnmholtbsc@aol.com](mailto:johnmholtbsc@aol.com)

### *Hospital at Home*

We warmly welcome the idea of Hospital at home, with many telling us their neurological condition means they are not well enough to be admitted to hospital! A community based Consultant, will assess who should be admitted to this special ward where all the beds are 'at home'. with a team of clinicians and others looking after 30 patients on this 'ward' covering West Berks, Reading and Wokingham.

### *ME/CFS Service*

The delay in agreeing the design of the Berkshire West ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome service seems now to be sorted. We look forward to this very disadvantaged patient group finally being able to access some service.

The national Neurological Alliance is drafting a 'manifesto' ahead of the general election. If you want to contribute, please contact John Holt on 01635 33582 or email [johnmholtbsc@aol.com](mailto:johnmholtbsc@aol.com)

### *Newbury Dementia Action Alliance*

Newbury Dementia Action Alliance which has been set up by with the aim of improving the lives of dementia and their carer's, by setting up a 'dementia friendly community' are holding their launch on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The event will run from 11.00am until 2.30pm outside of the Corn Exchange in Newbury. For more info on the Alliance or to get involved contact: Sue Butterworth, Co-ordinator on 07717 343 048 or email [susan.butterworth@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:susan.butterworth@alzheimers.org.uk)

### *Looking Ahead*

We plan to hold further focus groups and surveys after June and we are always interested in members' views on the subjects we should cover. If anyone has any suggestions please forward them to us and we will consider all ideas on merit.

### *Dates for your diary*

**Open meeting dates coming up, all at 1.45pm for 2 pm, St Joseph's, Newbury**

8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 - Speaker TBA

10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – Speaker TBA

13<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – Speaker TBA

Everyone welcome

### *West Berkshire Neurological Alliance*

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