

West Berkshire Neurological Alliance

Number 65

Neuro Newsletter

April 2016

WBNA conference 2016

Our 2016 neuro conference will be an all-day event at the Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury, on Tuesday, 3rd May, with Neuro-rehab guru Professor Derick Wade our keynote speaker. The theme will be *'Integrated pathways of Neurological Care'*. The event will carry 'CPD' training points for professionals and be of strong interest to neuro-patients and carers. The aims of the Conference are service integration and improving the patient experience. To book your place email info@conferenceorganisers.net

WBNA focus groups 2016

Carers' services are changing locally, so we will be holding a focus group on the afternoon of 16th May, on *'My life as a neuro-carer'*, to help inform the work of the local NHS Long Term Conditions Board, the Neuro Steering Group, and the two Thames Valley equivalents, on which we represent the local neurological voluntary sector. Carers interested in attending should contact John on johnmholtbsc@aol.com

Grants for carers' breaks

Grants for carers in need of up to £300 to take a break or breaks from their caring role remain available from WBNA. Applicants must live in West Berkshire, Reading or Wokingham and provide care for at least fifteen hours a week. Details are on the application form. Apply to johnmholtbsc@aol.com

West Berkshire Therapy Centre

West Berkshire Therapy Centre is strongly backed by WBNA and has moved to larger premises at Frank Hutchins Hall in Harts Hill Road, Thatcham. New equipment, funded by Greenham Common Trust includes a motorised chair to help from sit-to-stand, and a 'moving platform' machine that helps users to practice and improve their balance. For further details view www.westberkshiretherapycentre.org.uk

Whitehall update

- Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has responded strongly to the complacency of NHS Main Board Directors and demanded a series of actions from them, including:
- * The role of national clinical director for adult neurology should be retained.
 - * NHS England should set out by April 2016: how it will use the new Commissioning for Value Data Packs to help clinical commissioning groups improve neurological services and reduce the variation in services and outcomes; and how it will then hold clinical commissioning groups to account for their performance.
 - * The NHS should report back to PAC by April 2016 setting out how it plans to link health and social care data, including a clear timetable for when it expects care data to be fully implemented across the NHS.

* The NHS should set out, by April 2016, which neurological services are 'specialised services' to be commissioned by NHS England and which services should be commissioned locally by clinical commissioning groups

* The NHS should confirm how it is measuring performance against the objective that everyone with a long-term condition should be offered a personalised care plan. The NHS should have a timetable for meeting the objective, with accountabilities defined.

*The NHS should report back to PAC by April 2017 on what it has done to make best use of the available neurologists and reduce the variations in access, including through re-designing services and making more use of other clinical staff, particularly specialist nurses.

Our comment: Well done to PAC for revealing the lack of drive at the top of the NHS and giving strong prods to deliver some of the direction needed to improve neuro services!

NHS Berkshire West update

The NHS Berkshire West Neuro Steering Group continues to be active in developing local care pathways for those with migraine, headache, epilepsy and other neurological conditions. Lack of drive from Whitehall does not appear to be slowing down these important local developments.

The Alliance is working with Dr Richard Coates to establish a support group for those affected by Migraine and headache. To find out more or get involved contact John on johnmholtbsc@aol.com

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund project helps those over 65 who are socially isolated and in need of support at home after being discharged from hospital, helping with such as transport, shopping, prescriptions, pet care and signposting to other services. Phone 01189 358244 for more details.

WBNA Secretary needed!

We are still looking for a Secretary, should anyone with the skills and time be available. To find out more contact John on johnmholtbsc@aol.com

Dates for your diary

Conference 3rd May 2016
'Integrated pathways of neuro Care'
Pre-booking essential- see overleaf

Open meetings:
St Joseph's Church Hall, Newbury.
1.45 for 2 pm. Everyone welcome!

Thursday 12th May
Speaker: Jan Gryglaszewska
*Senior Continuing Healthcare Specialist
Advisor, Berkshire West*

Thursday 14th July
Speaker to be advised

AGM Thursday 29th September
Holiday Inn Padworth
Speaker Dr Bal Bahia GP Lead

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