

Welcome to the latest LINK News, the regular bulletin that keeps you informed about the work that we have done, and our future work that you can be involved in to help improve health & social care services in Rochdale.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact us using the details on the back page.

V4W 3rd Birthday Celebration!

We would like to invite you to our third birthday celebration in Heywood. You will have an opportunity to have your say on the future of V4W as we discuss the upcoming changes and evolution into HealthWatch.

We will also have a special guest in attendance to talk about 5 Ways 2 Wellbeing and you will have the chance to use our Interactive 'Ask The Audience' equipment to make your voice heard. Refreshments will be provided.

Venue: Back O'th' Moss Community Centre, Peel Lane,
Heywood OL10 4TU

Date: Thursday 24th November

Time: 1.30pm - 4pm

If you would like to attend this event please contact us using the details on the back page of this newsletter.

If you require this document in any other format please contact Steven on 01706 510 845 or email steven@voices4wellbeing.co.uk.

The Work We Have Done

BME Dementia 'Have Your Say' Event



Working in partnership with Khalid Bashir from BME Health Matters, this event was a follow on from our previous event on dementia which highlighted concerns for the Black and Minority Ethnic community.

The event was held at Castlemere Community centre in July and over 120 people attended.

Fozia Waseem (Commissioning Manager for HMR Primary Care Trust) was introducing our speakers and answering any questions related to health care. Sue Clarke (Greater Manchester Locality Manager of the Alzheimer's Society) spoke about dementia and its symptoms, she also introduced the Memory Wellbeing Cafes.

Jane Myers (Acting Senior Commissioning Manager in Adult Care) spoke about available services and handed out leaflets about Adult Care services where people could find appropriate information. Mrs. Razia Shamin OBE spoke about dementia and its symptoms in Urdu. She also informed people about available services.

The work that we have been doing around dementia and our recommendations have been incorporated into Rochdale Council's Dementia Strategy.



Enter and View

Inpatient maternity services have recently been reconfigured as part of the Making It Better initiative. Clinical evidence shows that by having fewer specialist neo-natal centres rather than many general maternity units increases patient safety. Rochdale inpatient services moved to the ROH which is now a specialist neo-natal centre.

In light of feedback from users of this new service Oldham and Rochdale LINK jointly conducted an Enter and View at the new unit in October to assess the impact this change has had on patients and we will use the findings to work with the service provider to enhance patient experience.



Drug & Alcohol Misuse Events

As a result of touring around the borough of Rochdale with Voices 4 Wellbeing's (V4W) Interactive Roadshow Survey (IRS) we became aware that when the public were actively voting on health issues, many strongly said 'It is their choice' regarding Drug and Alcohol misuse. V4W attended the launch of Middleton's Drug and Alcohol Team, so between that and the fact that we had taken the IRS to various youth clubs and met the young people and the leaders, eventually led to the Drug and Alcohol Misuse 'Have Your Say' events!



Working with Hopwood College to put the 'Have your Say' event on meant that V4W could enable Janice Hollis (Project Implementation Officer, Young People's Lead/DIP Lead, DAAT) to gain an introduction and working partnership into the college. The event reports will go to various organisations including those that were involved on the day. Janice Hollis has said that organisations such as V4W can contribute to the evaluation of service provision which will be incorporated into Needs Assessments to inform Treatment Plans.

Voices 4 Wellbeing worked in partnership with the Youth Service to bring about a 'Have your Say' event on Drug and Alcohol Misuse in June. Diane Higgins, Rhodes youth club leader, Karen Tyner, Milnrow youth club leader, Debbie Chadwick, former Heywood youth club leader and Sue Smith, Langley's 'Get clued Up' project leader, organised for thirty five young people from their organisations to attend on the day.

The event itself was very interactive with Janice Hollis from the Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Jamie Dunn from Early Break and Danielle Doran, a local Police Community Support Officer giving informative presentations.

Kurtis Tweedale, a drama student, recited a thought provoking monologue regarding the consequences of alcohol misuse and relationships. Two young people created and recited two topical poems and a moving actual experience about what it felt like to be married to an alcoholic was given. 'Ask the Audience' equipment was used to collect information and the eating of Pizzas was the conclusion of a great event. Voices4Wellbeing visited the young people's clubs in order to gather evaluation in order to help the staff and the speakers improve future events.

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Voices 4 Wellbeing's second 'Have your Say' event on Drug and Alcohol Misuse, took place in October working in partnership with Hopwood College.

With the idea of involving the students as much as possible, we asked if the drama class would like to produce and perform a topical play and poem for the event.

Paul Howarth, the drama tutor and the student group 'Logistic's Theatre Company' put on a very strong, effective performance on the effect of drug misuse within a family setting. The group also brilliantly portrayed the touching poem that had been produced regarding a child's point of view of experiencing alcohol misuse and her father. The 'lived experience' of being married to an alcoholic was related to an attentive audience.

Janice Hollis from the Drug and Alcohol Team and Rhyse Cathcart from Early Break gave their informative presentations and the 'Ask the Audience' equipment was used to gather 'before and after' questions and the evaluation. The college caterers did us proud cooking us some lovely Pizzas to finish the event with.

Interactive Roadshow Survey

Voices 4 Wellbeing's Interactive Roadshow Survey (IRS) is our hugely successful engagement tool. It also enables us to raise awareness of our service. Our Outreach and Engagement Worker, Jacqueline Bestley, manages this with the assistance of the support team.



We are currently doing a survey about Drug & Alcohol Misuse, as a way of supporting our Drug & Alcohol Misuse 'Have Your Say' Event. We are also carrying out a survey about Mental Health to support our upcoming event on February.

Our surveys have been very successful and since April this year, about 700 people in the borough of Rochdale participated. We took the IRS out to venues across the borough, including attending numerous events to support the work of local organisations.

Staffing Change

Our dedicated administrator of last three years, Steven, has now left the organisation. We will shortly be recruiting a part-time administrator and we are extremely happy to announce that our hard-working volunteer, Annemari, has joined the team as a part-time trainee administrator. We welcome her as our newest member of the team.



We are actively seeking a new volunteer to help out with the Interactive Roadshow Survey. This would involve amongst other things, attending various events and venues and giving information to the general public regarding Voices 4 Wellbeing.

If you are interested, please email jacqueline@voices4wellbeing.co.uk

Upcoming Events

- **Organ Donation Event** (in partnership with Pennine Acute and BME Health Matters)
Date: 16th of November
Venue: Castlemere Community Centre, Rochdale
- **Voices4Wellbeing Annual General Meeting**
Date: 24th of November
Venue: Back O'the Moss, Heywood.
- **BME Drug & Alcohol 'Have Your Say' Event**
Date: Early December
Venue: Castlemere Community Centre, Rochdale
- **Mental Health 'Have Your Say' Event**
Date: 15th of February
Venue: Richmond Hall, Rochdale

If you would like to attend any of these events please contact us using the details on the back page of this newsletter.

How YOU Can get Involved

You can give up as much or as little of your time as you wish, at times that suit you.



There are several ways you can get involved, which include:

- **Taking part in a survey which can be anonymous if you wish.**
- **Receive Voices4Wellbeing Newsletter.**
- **Taking part in workshops/focus groups which deal with identified issues, for example: Dementia or Drug and Alcohol Misuse.**
- **Taking part in our events.**
- **Becoming a Governor.**
- **Volunteering to help with the Interactive Roadshow Survey.**

If you wish get involved in any of these ways (or wish to discuss alternative ways you can get involved) please contact the support team on details provided below.

Contact Details



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