

August 2018



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Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of News-Bites from NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group.

Although it's August and everybody seems to be either on holiday, preparing to jet off or returning from somewhere warm, the NHS in Swindon has continued to be as active as ever, with healthcare in our town not taking a summer holiday.

Not only has the CCG been getting behind some of the big national campaigns that have launched this month, such as World Breastfeeding Week, the Be Clear on Cancer initiative and the It Starts With Me scheme to raise awareness of HIV prevention, but we have been encouraging our staff to try commuting to work on two wheels rather than four as part of Cycle to Work Day.

As well as covering some serious distance on our bikes, we have also been clocking up the miles across Swindon, in our travels to meet local groups and organisations to hear about what is going on in their community.

Swindon's University of the Third Age is just one group we spent some time with in August. It's a fantastic programme that supports retired people in our town to pursue their favourite hobbies, or learn something completely new, with other like-minded folk.

There are more than 2,000 members in Swindon alone, and this looks set to rise even further as news of the U3A's open day for new members in September spreads across the town.

Keep reading to find out more.

Patients wanted to help shape future NHS digital services

NHS England is on the lookout for patients and members of the public to help shape its plans for future digital healthcare services.

Patient and public voice (PPV) partners are currently being sought to work with national healthcare leaders on projects that will see more NHS services go digital.

Anybody who would like to get involved in this exciting area of development, should head online to read the information pack and to make an application before the deadline of Monday 3 September.

[Click here](#) to find out more.



Consultation for views on new approach to commissioning begins

A consultation by NHS England to find people's views on a new approach to the way in which health and social care services are bought is now live.

Previously, CCGs and local authorities had purchased services for their respective areas from a range of different providers.

However, more and more towns and cities are now commissioning services through one single provider, called an Integrated Care Provider, in the hope of making local services more joined up.

Patients, stakeholders and members of the public are now being asked for their views on the move as part of a 12-week national consultation.

[Click here](#) to find out more and to take part.



Learn 100 new facts about diabetes at upcoming meeting

Diabetes UK will hold its next Swindon group meeting in September and those coming along can expect to leave in a much more knowledgeable position than when they arrived.

The group, which meets on monthly basis to offer support and information to people in Swindon living with diabetes, will use the meeting on Tuesday 4 September to discuss new book, 100 Things I Wish I Had Known About Diabetes.

Written by real-life patients, the book contains hints and tips on everything from eating out to exercising.

Full details of the meeting can be found by [clicking here](#).



Looking to spend time helping others?

Volunteering opportunities are plentiful in Swindon, with dozens of large and small events happening over the next few weeks needing extra pairs of hands to help things run smoothly.

From marshalling at the Swindon Half Marathon to manning the gates at Prospect Hospice's Garden Fete, people can take an active role in supporting their local area by becoming a member of the Swindon Volunteer Centre.

The charity, which has been a staple of the Swindon community for nearly 20 years, is currently linking volunteers with more than 400 projects and events in need of people power.

People can learn more by visiting the centre in person, calling 01793 420557 or logging on to swindonvolunteers.org.uk.



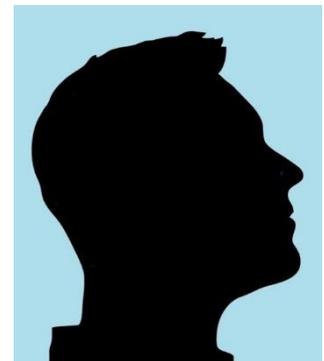
Supporting Swindon men to open up about mental health

Swindon Borough Council's Public Health team is calling on men of all ages to take part in a short survey about mental health.

The online questionnaire, which should take no more than a few minutes to complete, has been designed to help identify new ways of supporting husbands, fathers, brothers and sons to talk openly about their mental health.

Many males feel that talking openly about their feelings can lead to embarrassment or ridicule, which could be one of the reasons why nearly 75 per cent of all UK suicides involve men.

[Click here](#) to take part in the survey.



Enjoy last barbecue of the season with Swindon and Gloucestershire Mind

Swindon and Gloucestershire Mind will be holding an open barbecue event at the beginning of next month in which local people can come along and chat to staff from the charity over a late summer hot dog.

Taking place at Lydiard Park on Wednesday 5 September between 11.30am and 3pm, the barbecue is open to all people who are interested in learning more about the work of the charity, which supports people suffering from poor mental health.



For your information and interest

- **Men and women aged 50 and over are being encouraged to allow themselves a few extra seconds in the loo** to check for anything unusual appearing in their pee.

Although it's rarely the case, blood in pee can be an early symptom of bladder and kidney cancer.

Visit the [Be Clear on Cancer website](#) to find out more.

- **Healthwatch Swindon, the organisation responsible for holding healthcare services to account, is asking people in the town to complete an online survey** so it can gain a better understanding of residents' experiences of locally provided care.

The survey has been launched to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, with results then being used to drive forward change and improvements.

[Click here](#) to take part.

- **Healthwatch Swindon's August newsletter** can be read by clicking [here](#).
- The latest **Headway Swindon newsletter** has recently been issued, click [here](#) to read it.
- The **Local Government Association has published a green paper setting out a variety of funding options for social care within local communities** that it would like feedback on.

People can read the green paper [online](#) and have their say by either completing the form on the [website](#) or printing a paper copy and emailing it to socialcareconversation@local.gov.uk.

- The new **Secretary of State for Health and Social Care set out his vision for the NHS over the next few years** in his inaugural speech that was delivered at the end of July.

Matt Hancock MP, who took over from Jeremy Hunt MP following his move to Foreign Secretary, listed workforce, technology and prevention as his three key early priorities for the health service.

The whole speech, which was given at a hospital in Mr Hancock's home constituency, can be read [online](#).

Governing Body

The latest Governing Body meeting was held on Thursday 23 August and the papers can be viewed on the CCG's website:

www.swindonccg.nhs.uk

The next meeting will take place at the CCG offices on Thursday 27 September at 9.00am.

The papers will be available on the website, one week before the meeting.

If you would like to submit a question or attend the meeting, please send an email to communications@swindonccg.nhs.uk by Monday 24 September.

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