

June 2019



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**Hello,**

Summer is finally here and with the sun shining brightly, it's the perfect time of year to get out and about.

And that's exactly what we'll be doing for the next couple of weeks – getting out and about across Swindon to ask as many people as possible what it is they would change about local health and care services.

It's all part of the new Our Health, Our Future campaign, which calls on the residents of Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire to answer three questions:

What's the one thing...

- You wish you'd known sooner to help you be as healthy as possible?
- That would help you to find and use health and care services more easily?
- That would help to make a difference to your health and care in the future?

All the answer to these questions, as well as any additional comments received, will then be used by health and care organisations across the local area to help develop a plan of how to deliver key services over the next five years.

Getting people involved in this way not only ensures the plan is made in collaboration with those who actually use health and care services, but also allows those services to be more reflective of the specific needs and priorities of a local population.

There are plenty of ways for people to have their say – by speaking to us or our colleagues in person at one of the many events we'll be at throughout June and July, completing the [online survey](#), filling in a paper copy of the survey at a GP practice or getting in touch on either Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

And if you're just about to jet off on your summer holidays, don't worry about missing out as the survey will be live until the end of July.

By taking just two minutes to get involved, you'll be helping to enhance the health and care services that you and your family use for many years to come.

**Until next time, stay healthy and happy!**

## The Junction opens in Swindon

People in Swindon experiencing a mental health crisis can now benefit from a new twilight support centre that opened its doors at the end of May.

The Junction, which is based in the town centre, will be open between 6pm and 1am and offer a safe space in which people can receive help and discuss their problems with a trained professional.

To begin with, only people referred directly to the Junction will be able to benefit, however it is hoped that the service could be opened up to a wider audience in the near future.

Sheila Baxter, the CCG's Mental Health Commissioner, said: "What we want is for people who are experiencing a crisis to have their distress relieved."



## Update on the withdrawal of the IMH Group from primary care in Swindon

As reported in the last issue of News-Bites, the IMH Group, which had been working in partnership with five GP practices, has agreed to withdraw from primary care services in Swindon.

The five practices involved with IMH are Abbey Meads Medical Group, Taw Hill Medical Practice, Moredon Medical Centre, Eldene Surgery and Phoenix Surgery.

Since this decision was made, the CCG has been exploring alternative arrangements for each of the practices and has recently held positive conversations with a number of potential local providers.

Although the details of these arrangements are yet to be finalised, it is hoped that an announcement will be made to local people later in the summer.



## Stop the press!

The latest edition of Stop Press, the official newsletter of the Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) is now available to read and download.

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



## Airport-inspired hidden disability lanyards take off

GP practices across Swindon are signing up to the CCG's hidden disability lanyard scheme that supports people to easily recognise children whose condition is not easily visible.

First rolled out at the Great Western Hospital, the lanyards – which were inspired by a similar scheme at Gatwick Airport – act as a subtle indicator that a child may need some extra help or support during their appointment.

Feedback to the lanyards from parents has so far been extremely positive, and it is hoped the scheme will make visiting a GP a less stressful experience for children with autism and other hidden disabilities.



## Save the date for 2018/19 Annual General Meeting

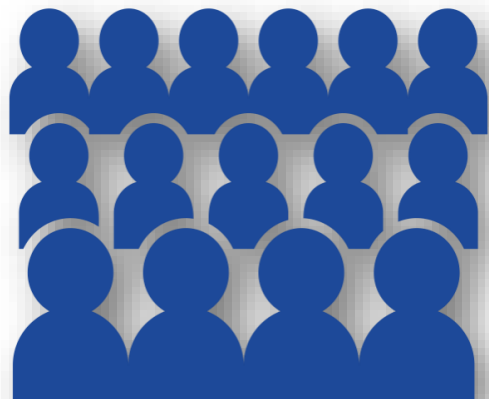
The CCG's Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 18 July.

Returning to the Pilgrim Centre in Swindon town centre, the AGM is an opportunity for local people to hear the latest news and updates from the CCG, as well as to put questions and feedback direct to the CCG's Executive Team.

Those coming along will have the chance to view the CCG's Annual Report for 2018/19, which provides an in-depth account of what's been happening in the NHS in Swindon over the last 12 months.

There will also be roundtable discussions in which feedback from guests will be used to shape and inform future healthcare plans.

Please [click here](#) to register attendance in advance.



## Patient and Public Engagement Forum

The next meeting of the CCG's Patient and Public Engagement Forum will take place on Thursday 25 July at 12.30pm.

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

## Governing Body

The next meeting of Swindon CCG's Governing Body will take place on Thursday 25 June at 9am.

Minutes and papers of previous meetings can be found by [clicking here](#).

If you would like to attend, please send an email to [communications@swindonccg.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@swindonccg.nhs.uk).

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