

29 July 2014 Edition 16 Healthwatch
Camden eNews

Welcome to our eNews round-up of health and social care news, events and consultations in Camden.

Community Engagement

Have you seen our annual report?

Healthwatch Camden's been operating for a year, but for the first few months we were at set up stage. Read Frances' latest [blog post](#) to find out more about our set up journey.

Last month we launched our first annual report. It's an interactive document and also has versions for the visually impaired and Easy Read. [Take a look at how we're influencing health and social care services in Camden.](#)

The role of Practice Participation Groups

At our June board meeting, a member of the public asked about the role of practice participation groups (PPGs) and there was a brief discussion about how they work. Healthwatch Camden board chair, Connie Smith, explained how Camden Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is supporting PPGs in Camden. If you want to know more about your PPG, contact your local GP practice. If you want to know more about the support for PPGs, contact Martin Emery, Community Ownership Manager at the CCG. Email martin.emery@camdenccg.nhs.uk or call 0203 688 1755.

Out and about in the community!

We're out in the community talking and listening to local people from children, to young people and adults. Over two days we had a stall at Morrisons supermarket. We let people know more about our work, and got their opinions on multiple long-term conditions and Camden's weight management services. We also had stalls

at the Bloomsbury Festival and Somers Town Festival.

Volunteers

Why not volunteer for us and be part of our growing team? Visit our [website](#) for more details.

Surveys and campaigns

Have your say about care at the Royal Free Hospital

Have your say about care at the Royal Free Hospital

The Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust recently took over the management of Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals. As part of the move, they are reviewing all the ‘care pathways’ in use. (A care pathway is the way that the NHS describes the process of your treatment for a particular condition. The care pathway usually describes how decisions about treatment are made, how

referrals are handled and where treatment takes place.) You can get involved in discussions about changing care pathways by contacting [Healthwatch Camden](#).

Can you help us?

[Healthwatch Camden](#) is planning research into the experiences of HIV positive adults diagnosed for several years, who live with long-term health conditions or age- related illnesses.

This research could help to improve health and social services for people who are living and growing older with HIV. It will add to our work on how well services join up for all people who live with long term health conditions.

All views given will be anonymised and confidentiality will be respected.

If you are comfortable speaking about your experiences, contact Juliet at volunteer@healthwatchcamden.co.uk

Keeping Healthy when it's really hot

[Public Health England](#) prepared an Easy Read [Heatwave Plan](#) aimed at NHS, local councils and other public services, also local people and community groups. The plan gives advice on keeping safe and healthy when it's very hot. This is important because people can get ill or die in very hot weather.

We do not know if there will be a heatwave, but it's better to be prepared just in case. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

Consultation on specialised services policies - NHS England

On June 25, [NHS England](#) launched a three-month public consultation on changes made to a number of its specialised services policies. These policies have already been subject to stakeholder engagement and comment. They're now consulting on the final documents. Consultation is open until 17th September 2014. To view the documents and find out how to contribute, visit their [website](#).

The list open for consultation is:

- Bortezomib for the Treatment of Refractory Antibody Mediated Rejection Post Kidney Transplant A07/P/b
- Eculizumab for the Treatment of Refractory Antibody Mediated Rejection Post Kidney Transplant A07/P/c
- Non-Invasively Lengthened Spinal Rods for Scoliosis D14/P/a

- Dolutegravir for the Treatment of HIV- 1 in Adults and Adolescents B06/P/b

Understanding the new NHS

[NHS England](#) launched an accessible, practical and informative guide which outlines the organisations, systems and processes that define, sustain and regulate the NHS. It's for everyone working and training within the NHS (in England). See the guide [here](#).

Local groups in our community

Camden Clinical Commissioning Group (Camden CCG)

[Camden CCG's](#) Annual Report and Accounts for 2013/14 are out. Click [here](#) to see them. Their

Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on Wednesday 17th September, 1:30 - 5:00pm.

Disc (Disability in Camden) closure and longer term options for people with disabilities

The Council has negotiated with local providers Camden Advice Partnership (CAP) to temporarily deliver disability support services. This arrangement is for approximately 18 months, until the Centre for Independent Living services is tendered and open.

For more information, visit [here](#).

Dates for your diary

Invitation to a FREE Dementia Friends Information Session at Voluntary Action Camden (VAC)

[Voluntary Action Camden](#) is offering free Dementia Friends Information Sessions for anyone

of any age who wants to commit to a small action to make their community more dementia friendly. For example, helping someone to find the right bus or spreading the word about dementia. The short interactive session will look at key messages about dementia and what it might be like to live with the condition.

Dementia Friends is an [Alzheimer's Society](#) led initiative with the aim of increasing dementia awareness and changing the way the nation thinks, talks and acts about dementia.

Spaces are limited. So book your place by contacting Martina Rusnakova on MHTeamVolunteer@vac.org.uk or call 020 7284 6565.

Date: Thursday 31st July

Time: 2.30 - 4.00pm

Venue: VAC, 293-299 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2TJ.

Voluntary Action Camden (VAC) - Youth Mental Health First Aid

[Voluntary Action Camden](#) is running an instructive, internationally recognised course called "Youth Mental Health First Aid" (YMHFA) on 22 and 29 September 2014. It's for people that teach, work, live with or care for young people aged 11 - 18. The aim is to provide information, tools and techniques to promote a young person's mental and emotional wellbeing and to enable participants to support a young person who might be experiencing mental and emotional distress.

The course is aimed at those without specialist mental health training but who might encounter mental health issues, especially with young people.

For more information contact: Sue Dowd, Community Development Worker (Mental Health), at sdowd@vac.org.uk or on 020 7284 6559.

Did you know?

How is air pollution impacting on your health?

[Camden](#) and [Islington Councils](#) are providing free training and events on the impact of air pollution on health as part of a new air quality campaign.

Staff working within public health and related fields will have the opportunity to take part in free training, and community organisations are encouraged to host Air Aware events. These can be stand-alone events, or form part of any existing events as a workshop or presentation. The events are designed to help residents understand the impact of air pollution on their health and how to avoid the worst exposure.

For further information on training and events, [contact Camden's air quality team](#).

Khat banned as of 24 June 2014

As of Tuesday 24 June 2014, Khat's been classified as an illegal Class C drug in the UK. This means it's now illegal to produce, possess, supply and import or export Khat without a Home Office licence.

Khat is a leafy green plant containing stimulants with effects that are similar to, but less powerful than, amphetamine and is particularly chewed by people from Somali, Yemeni and East African communities.

For confidential advice and information on local support and treatment services for Khat use, your GP or local council is a good place to start. You can also call the Camden Drugs and Alcohol Helpline, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, on 020 7916 2222.

Healthwatch Camden needs you!

If you have any comments on health and social care in Camden, or want to share best practice, please let us know. Your input is important and we're here to speak to you. You can now also speak to us in real time on our [blog](#).

Best wishes from the Camden Healthwatch team!

[Frances Hasler - Director](#)

[Carl Mills - Business Co-ordinator](#)

[Shelly Khan - Community Engagement and
Volunteer Manager](#)

[Lindiwe Maqhubela - Communications Manager](#)

[Anna Wright - Interim Policy and Insight Manager](#)

[Len Lauk - Information on Officer](#)

To get real time updates on what we're up to....

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To submit an entry for the next edition, please send an

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