

Health briefing

Area Panel Four

March 2006

Welcome to our March Health Briefing

Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) work together to improve the health of people across the city, and make sure the health services they need are available. Their job is to:

- work out what is needed to improve local people's health
- provide some services themselves – such as community services including clinics, district nurses, children's services and health visitors
- buy some services from others – such as larger hospitals and specialist treatments.

The PCTs will be providing a local Health Briefing for each Area Panel meeting.

If you have any questions you can either direct them through the Area Panel Manager - Richard Smail on 01332 258505 or contact us direct:

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In this issue

In this issue you will find details of:

- our health, our care, our say.

Our health, our care, our say

In 2005 the Department of Health carried out two major consultations asking members of the public to give their views on key issues involving adult social care and health and social care services in the community. They received around 142,000 responses. This information helped to build up a picture of how people feel about health and social care services.

The newly published White Paper 'Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services' explains in detail the improvements the government is going to make, why it feels these changes are necessary and the steps it's taking to make sure they happen – backed up by research figures and statistics.

Developments over the next five years include:

- offering people in vulnerable situations more support
- more new GP surgeries
- new modern NHS community hospitals
- more NHS Walk-in Centres

- improving access to information and information prescriptions for those with a long-term need
- NHS life check
- joint health and social care teams
- information service for carers.

The changes will give people more choice about the services they receive, which will, in turn, give them more power to influence the type and standard of service offered locally. All organisations providing health and social care services will be expected to:

- seek the views and wishes of patients and service users
- act on these views
- involve local people in decision-making.

For more information please visit the Department of Health's website at www.dh.gov.uk/publications

You can download a summary of the White Paper, an easy read summary and the full document.



Area Panels are welcome to contact the PCT with questions, or to invite a representative from the PCT to speak at an Area Panel meeting if there is a particular subject of interest to the Panel.

You can contact us at the address overleaf.