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» Newham Recorder Weather



Appeal for views over plan to transform dementia services

Resources will be pumped into treating people at home

by Kay Atwal

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NHS bosses, keen to gauge public opinion on dementia services, have organised an extra session of Q&As for people to express their views.

At the beginning of October NHS East London and the City launched a consultation on improving in-patient services for people with dementia.

It proposes to change the way in-patient services are provided across the area so more resources can be put into treating people in their own homes.

Over the last few months, staff from the trust, who plan dementia care in the area, and representatives of the staff have been talking to local people and groups about the proposed changes.

As well as going to community groups they have invited the community to a number of question and answer sessions across.

High-quality

Now, to get as many people's views as possible NHS East London and the City have scheduled two further dates for question and answer sessions:

One will be held on Novem-

ber 10 from 3pm to 5pm at St Mark's Church and Community Centre, in East Ham.

Another will be held on November 22 in Hackney.

The NHS is proposing to improve services by closing underused in-patient wards based in Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets and providing high-quality services from a single base at Mile End Hospital.

The money saved will be invested in services in the community.

Marie Gabriel, Chair of NHS East London and the City, said: "Many people with dementia are now assessed early, diagnosed and then re-

ceive specialist support at home, rather than having to go to hospital.

"We need people who use these services, carers, local people, NHS staff, community organisations and other groups with an interest in these services to tell us what they think about the proposals."

To tell the NHS what you think about dementia services you can download the document and give your views online at: www.towerhamlets.nhs.uk/dementia-consultation, or by emailing consultation@elc.nhs.uk.

The consultation ends on November 30 2011.



■ Councillors Quentin Peppiatt and Andrew Baikie with 15 pupils from the Every Child a Musician programme, who performed at the ExCel

Music prodigies show talents at national conference

Pupils from Forest Gate's Salisbury Primary School entertained delegates from councils from across the country at the National Children and Adult Services Conference at the ExCel conference centre.

The 15 Year 6 pupils are all members of the council's Every Child a Musician (EcaM) programme and have been learning how to play the violin.

The conference, called Tough Times, Good

Decisions, was an opportunity for the council to showcase Newham's innovative programmes such as ECaM, the Newham Volunteers scheme, 2012 Games legacy work and the transformation programme

for adult social care.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Andrew Baikie and Cllr Quentin Peppiatt, executive member for children and young people, watched the young musicians in action.

Students 'sleep out' to raise cash for homeless charity

More than 40 students got a taste of what it is like to be homeless with an eight hour "Sleep out" on Thursday

The group from London's School of

Economics hit the streets to raise awareness for the issue of homelessness boost the funds for Canning Town specialist charity Anchor House.

All money raised will go towards the charity's £9.3 million Home and Hope Appeal. People can donate online at www.justgiving.com/Sleepingout

Job warning as flu season arrives early

Figures released by the Health Protection Agency have revealed that seasonal flu has come early to east London this year.

Consultations in Newham and Hackney and the City are above the London average while Tower Hamlets has had the highest rates of people going to their GP with flu-like symptoms.

Every year, seasonal flu is responsible for the deaths of around 8,000 people in England and Wales. As winter approaches NHS East London and the City is urging people who are at risk of developing serious complications to take advantage of a free seasonal flu jab.

People who should have the flu vaccine are:

- those aged 65 years and over;
- all pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy;
- adults and children (from six months old) with long term conditions;
- everyone living in a residential or nursing home;
- everyone who cares for an older or a disabled person; and
- all frontline health and social care workers.

Anyone who had the vaccine last year will need a new jab this winter as the viruses change every year.

Get tickets to test events

Newham residents have the chance to purchase tickets to some of the Olympic testing events 48 hours before they go on sale to the general public.

They will be for International Gymnastics, a qualification event for the London 2012 Olympics, at the O2 in January; the 18th FINA Diving World Cup at the Aquatics Centre and the UCI Track Cycling World Cup Classics at the Velodrome – both at the Olympic Park – in February.

Priority tickets will be available online through Ticketmaster by quoting NEWHAMPREPARES from 9am on November 15 to 9am on November 17 at www.ticketmaster.co.uk/london-prepareseries

More information can be found on www.londonprepareseries.com

Petition launched to prevent abortion clinic opening

Residents living near a sexual health and abortion clinic in Stratford have petitioned their housing association, calling the decision to grant a lease "an abdication of your responsibilities to local tenants".

Around 15 residents signed a letter to Mike Sweeny, chief executive of One Housing, claiming they were misled by the planning application for the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) centre which simply read "clinic" online.

They wrote: "Abortion is a very sensitive issue to all concerned and we object strongly to the crass insensitive decision you have made to allow BPAS to use your premises."

"Furthermore we strongly object that, in abdication of your responsibilities to us as your local tenants, you did not see fit to consult or even inform us."

"We would be grateful if you urgently reverse your decision and terminate the BPAS lease."

In a statement to the Recorder, One Housing said: "We have a number of commercial properties across London, most located within mixed tenure developments."

"The safety and wellbeing of our residents and the local community is our key priority, so we take care to select businesses which will cause the least noise disturbance."

"We have no political or religious affiliations and do not discriminate against any type of business."