

## Press release

### Get involved in shaping the local NHS

Local people are invited to find out how they can get involved in shaping and improving health and social care services at two events taking place early next month. The events have been organised jointly by the new Bury Clinical Commissioning Group, Bury Council and Bury LINK.

Bury Clinical Commissioning Group has emerged as part of plans for the future vision of the NHS which are set out in the Health and Social Care Bill. The Bill paves the way for GPs and other local clinicians to have a greater influence on how the NHS budget is spent, to buy-in services for patients, and a new NHS Commissioning Group will oversee the process.

Bury Clinical Commissioning Group will take over the leadership of local health services from NHS Bury (Bury Primary Care Trust) when the PCT ceases to exist in April 2013.

Local people, patients and stakeholders such as patient and voluntary groups are invited to the events where they can find out the latest developments in health and social care. The events will give them the chance to influence how patients and the public can input into these services, and also help to 'build' a Patients Panel for Bury. The Patients Panel will be made up of patients, service user groups and other stakeholders and will assist Bury's Clinical Commissioning Group and its partners in taking forward and improving the quality and provision of services in Bury.

Dr. Kiran Patel, Chair and Clinical Lead for Bury's Clinical Commissioning Group said: "We are committed to ensuring that local people have a voice in local health and social care services. These events are a chance for

people to get involved and learn more about local services, including the role of the new Clinical Commissioning Group. We want local people to be involved and help us to improve services by letting us know what they think, so we can make changes that really count.”

Graham Evans, Interim Chair, Bury LINK added: “This is a great opportunity for patients to make sure that their voice is heard and that decisions reflect what patients and the public want.”

Councillor Rishi Shori, Executive Member for Adult Care, Health and Housing at Bury Council said: "These events are an excellent opportunity for us to meet face to face with local people, putting our communities at the heart of what we do. Local people should be able to influence how services are delivered and developed, and there are lots of ways to get involved. I'd urge local people to come along to find out more."

**The events will take place on the following dates:**

Friday December 2nd 2011 at 9.30am

Tuesday December 6th 2011 at 5pm

Both events will last approximately two hours and both will take place in the Elizabethan Suite within Bury Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury.

To assist with planning and catering requirements, people interested in coming along should confirm their attendance by logging onto [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and searching for Bury Clinical Commissioning Group events.

**ENDS**

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011

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