

Helping people feel safe at home

West Lothian Home Safety Service is the biggest provider of assistive technology in people's own homes in Europe.

The Home Safety Service is a way of building in additional protection for people who are at risk in their own homes. Research has shown that it really does make a difference to the length of time people can remain at home and that it gives additional peace of mind for the people themselves, their relatives and carers.

What is assistive technology?

The assistive technology used by the Home Safety Service is a range of wireless devices that can be installed in approximately half an hour, with set up and training taking a further hour. All that is required is a telephone landline (i.e. not mobile).



Kathleen, Home Safety Support worker, fitting a lifeline in Mrs Patterson's house

The basic package of assistive technology consists of a Lifeline unit and a range of sensors protecting the person and their home by means of a 24-hour telephone link to West Lothian Careline. Sensors include a pendant, flood detectors, smoke detector, movement sensors and a temperature extremes sensor.

This service is provided free on the basis of need, with the criteria being that people are in some way at risk at home. Currently around 2300 clients across West Lothian have an assisted technology package; our target is to reach 3000 clients this year.

Clients can refer themselves or be referred for the service; application forms widely available in both Council and Health offices. If you need further supplies of these or would like any more information please phone: **01506 771770**

Financial check ups for older people in hospital

A multi-agency pilot project to help older people in hospital make the most of the benefits they are entitled to has been hailed a success. The joint team, the first of its kind in Scotland, includes staff from the CHCP, Department for Work and Pensions and West Lothian Council's Revenues Unit.

The team provides direct benefit advice to all older people awaiting discharge from hospital. A full benefit check is integrated into the overall assessment of patients' needs. In many cases the material benefits are significant and make a vast difference to the quality of life of the people concerned.

Delayed hospital discharge in West Lothian lowest yet

Delayed discharge figures have revealed that West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership has recorded the lowest number of patients delayed in hospital across Lothian. The National Census of Patients Ready for Discharge showed the number of patients delayed in hospital in West Lothian in April was three, the lowest since reporting began in 2000.

Bob Anderson, chair of the CHCP, said: "The latest figures are good news for people in West Lothian and reflect the success of using a cross service approach to getting people out of hospital quicker."

contact us

West Life is published three times a year and made available to all CHCP employees.

We welcome your feedback on anything covered in this issue and suggestions for future issues.

Please contact any member of the team or e-mail:

moira.wainwright@wlt.scot.nhs.uk,
rhona.anderson@westlothian.gov.uk
christine.candlish@wlt.scot.nhs.uk
ronnie.motherwell@westlothian.gov.uk
info@westlothianchcp.org.uk

The next deadline for copy is 20 October 2006.

this issue...

- ▶ Occupational Therapy in West Lothian **pg2 and pg3**
- ▶ Home Safety Service **pg4**
- ▶ Financial Check ups **pg4**
- ▶ Delayed Discharge **pg4**
- ▶ Jambo OBE **pg4**



issue 03: July 2006

West Life

Newsletter for staff working in CHCP

info@westlothianchcp.org.uk

Happy birthday one year on



West Lothian CHCP is now one year old and a lot has been achieved over the last 12 months

Chair of the CHCP Bob Anderson looks at the successes and outlines future developments: "During the last year we have been looking at new ways of working together in a more effective and joined up way. Our centre spread on the OT service is a good example of this. As well as successes already achieved or in the pipeline, such as:

- Confirmation of the Fauldhouse Health and Community campus
- The lowest ever recorded delayed discharge level
- Expansion of food co-ops
- The development of the Perinatal Mental Health Unit at St John's Hospital
- A shared information system for all.

"We are also exploring a number of ideas to tackle health inequalities and improving wellbeing of people in West Lothian including:

- The development of telecare/telehealth
- Reducing the number of unplanned hospital admissions of older people.
- Health checks at a variety of community locations
- Tackling barriers to employment for people unable to work due to health issues or disability.

"We have undoubtedly made a great start, however over the next year we will build further on your hard work and continue the development of the CHCP to improve the health and wellbeing of people in West Lothian," added Bob.

New Partnership Project For CHCP

Fauldhouse is set to benefit from a new £6 million health and community campus.



Indicative drawing

The new facility will provide a comprehensive range of health, well-being and leisure services, including two GP practices and associated community services, two chair dental surgery, pharmacy, swimming pool, creche, learning suite, food co-op, health & fitness suite, community information service, sports hall, community youth room, all weather pitch, library, cafe and on-site police presence.

Bob Anderson, CHCP chair, said: "This is an exciting partnership project. The existing health centre is 25 years old and it will now be replaced with a facility which is fit for the 21st century."

CHCP director David Kelly said: "We have seen the success of Strathbrock Partnership Centre. The new Health and Community Campus at Fauldhouse will take this model a step further by incorporating leisure facilities. This project underlines our commitment to partnership working and co-locating public services."

Ann Beuken, practice manager at Fauldhouse Centre, welcomes this development and feels this will make a huge difference for staff and local people.

Jambo OBE

A well-known Hearts fan has been recognised for services to local government.

David Kelly, CHCP director, has been awarded the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's 80th Birthday Honours List. David was Director of Housing and Community Development with Livingston Development Corporation before taking up the post of Director of Social Work, Housing and Health with West Lothian Council.



Occupational Therapy in West Lothian

working together for better outcomes

The role of the OT is to work with children, adults, older people, those with a physical disability, learning disability or mental health problem to improve independence with home or work related tasks.

By adopting a joint approach the OT service in West Lothian is able to draw on the combined resources of both services. This ensures that the person is seen by the right OT at the right time, receiving the best care available avoiding, delays and duplication.

OTs in West Lothian have a long history of working well together and with the formation of the West Lothian CHCP we have recently introduced a number of further changes to the way the NHS and

West Lothian Council OT services work together within West Lothian.

This includes

- The same OT, where possible, carrying out all work, with the handover to specialist services where required
- Transfer of the sole paediatric OT post within Social Work to the Hospital team to allow all children's equipment assessment to be carried out by the one team

- OTs accepting each others assessment, ensuring that work is not repeated - reducing bureaucracy
- Improved early discharge from hospital
- Develop joint training and shadowing opportunities for staff and students
- Self assessment - providing direct access to a range of equipment without the need for a full OT assessment, now also available online



Mental Health

Morag Renfro

Morag is an OT working in Mental Health. Based at St John's Hospital, Morag works with adults with mental health conditions in Whitburn Rehabilitation Unit. She helps patients to develop coping strategies to deal with their mental health issues while tackling everyday tasks. Her focus is on areas of work, leisure and social occupation allowing patients to return home with skills in these areas. She may see patients in a group or on an individual basis. Phone: **01506 419666**



Paediatric Service

Vari Mackenzie

Vari is an occupational therapist based in St John's hospital. She works with the child, parents/carers and others to assess if a child has difficulties with the practical and social skills necessary for their everyday life. Vari can then identify the necessary strategies to enable the child to be as independent as possible for example, treatment or provide advice to the school. The child may also have equipment needs. Previously this would have needed a referral to the community occupational therapist. This post will now be based within the hospital occupational therapy service, which allows the child's assessment to be carried out within the one team providing a seamless service. Phone: **01506 419666**

West Lothian Community Rehabilitation & Brain Injury Service (CRABIS)

Liz Newbigging

Liz is an Occupational Therapist within CRABIS (Community Rehabilitation and Brain Injury Service). Her primary role is to improve independence in function and performance with everyday tasks following a neurological

illness or injury. Liz is working with Jennifer, following her discharge from hospital, on a return to work programme by practising work related tasks. Telephone: **01506 774047**

OT at St John's Hospital

Diana Cheung

Diana is an Occupational Therapist within St John's Hospital. The main focus of her work is to identify areas of need and to prepare patients for discharge from hospital by improving their level of independence. Diana is working with Mrs Meldrum to improve her ability in a range of self care tasks, which will allow her to feel more confident when she is fit enough to be discharged home. Telephone: **01506 419666**



Social Work OT

Elaine Simm

Elaine is an Occupational Therapist within Social Work. Her main area of work is to assess for and provide equipment and adaptations to improve independence at home for children and adults with disabilities. Elaine and Graeme are discussing plans of his new build flat. Alterations are required to accommodate wheelchair access in and around his home, which will help him to live successfully in the community. Telephone: **01506 777777** or **01506 776500**

The different elements of the OT service liaise closely with each other to ensure that discharge from hospital (e.g. St John's) is combined with any necessary equipment or adaptations (Social Work) as well as further rehab (CRABIS)



Self-assessment

John Leyden

John, a community care assistant, works with the Occupational Therapy Self-Assessment Service. This is a simple preventative service providing handrails and small pieces of disability equipment without the need for an Occupational Therapy assessment. Anyone with a disability or frailty can access this service. You can telephone **01506 461603** or use the new West Lothian Online ordering service: www.westlothian.gov.uk/otselfassess



Joint equipment store

Jim Cosgrove

Jim, community equipment store manager, can arrange for disability equipment to be delivered direct to clients. Through working in partnership OTs have agreed a joint procedure which allows hospital OT staff access to a wide range of Social Work disability equipment, this avoids unnecessary delay, and a speedier discharge from hospital. Contact **01506 419666** ex **2929** for more information.