



# VOXPop

Autumn 2008 Issue 22

voice of the community and voluntary sectors



Including:

**Find out more about the VOX Board and your representatives**

The next VOX Convention: **Handing Power back to the People?**

VOX Briefings: **The Policing and Crime Reduction Bill  
The National Health Service Reform Bill and  
Draft Constitution**

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## WELCOME

In this edition of VOXPop we wanted to let you know more about VOX's role as a representative of the local Community and Voluntary Sectors. We introduce you to our Board of Directors and the representatives who sit on the Wakefield Together Board and its three Thematic Partnerships.

We've also got an Autumn Convention lined up around three of the Bills that are included in the Draft Legislative Programme as reported on in the last edition of VOXPop. We want to get your opinion on these Bills and have included briefings on the Policing & Crime Reduction Bill and the National Health Service Reform Bill, (an Empowerment White Paper briefing was included in the last edition of VOXPop).

Also lined up for this Autumn is our Annual General Meeting (see below). We hope that you will be able to join us for a round up of our year's work on Friday 17th October.

*Important Notice:*

## VOX AGM

**12 noon, Friday 17th October 2008**

**Chesneys Resource Centre, Regent Street, Featherstone, WF7 5EW.**

*Both members and non-members are welcome*

The VOX AGM will be held on Friday 17th October. If you would like to attend please contact Lis Heptonstall on 01977 691922 or by email at [lis@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:lis@voxnet.org.uk) before Friday 10th October.

## Go Green with VOX.

Would you prefer to receive a digital version of VOXPop and reduce the impact on the environment? If so, then contact VOX on [info@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:info@voxnet.org.uk), letting us know who you are and your email address.

## www.voxnet.org.uk

The VOX website has now been up and running for several months. You can access loads of resources on there such as a list of our members, download back issues of VOXPop and lots more.

We also have:

**Neighbourhood Networks Pages**

For each of our Networks we have dedicated homepage areas where you can access the latest meeting minutes and find out when the next meetings are taking place. You can also get involved in discussions from your local Network by using our online discussion forums available on each Network homepage. This means you can get involved even if you aren't able to attend a meeting. (You can read more about the Networks on page 12)

**Thematic Partnership Pages**

You can find out more about Wakefield Together's Thematic Partnerships, which help to shape the way the District is run. You will find dedicated pages for each of the three Partnerships giving clear information on what they're all about, who your representative is (also see page 5 of this edition of VOXPop), and reports from the meetings. You can also get involved with the discussion forums if you have an issue you would like your rep to raise within the Partnerships.

**Events Calendar**

A quick link to all the events we, and our partners, are holding around the District

**Membership Area**

You can join VOX by downloading a membership form from the website. This gives you access to many benefits including free equipment loans.

So don't delay and visit [www.voxnet.org.uk](http://www.voxnet.org.uk)!

## VOX CONTACTS

If you would like to submit an article for the next issue of VOXPop, please contact Abby Oliver, VOX Communications Officer

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# VOX: Representing the Community and Voluntary Sectors in the Wakefield District

One of the main roles of VOX as the Community Empowerment Network for the Wakefield District is to provide a link between the local community and voluntary sectors and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). In Wakefield the LSP is called Wakefield Together. VOX is recognised and funded through Wakefield Together to provide a voice for the community and voluntary sectors.

## VOX Reps

One of the ways in which we carry out this role is by appointing community and voluntary sector representatives to sit on various bodies including the Wakefield Together Board and three Thematic Partnerships that have been set up to organise the strategic direction of work carried out by the LSP.

Each of these appointed reps can take the views of our members and wider sector to their respective meetings and also feed back on the work of the partnerships to our members, through a two way communication channel.

Each Thematic Partnership has its own area on the VOX website where you can access discussion forums, read reports from our reps and feed back on any areas that are important to you. You can also contact them directly via email at [reps@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:reps@voxnet.org.uk) if you would like to raise any issues.

## The VOX Board

Another way in which VOX represents the local Community and Voluntary Sectors is to recruit its Board of Directors from these sectors. We recognise the need to have a range of skills and experience represented amongst our Directors and we have been proactive recruiting individuals to join the Board, particularly if they come from under

represented areas or groupings.

Our Board is made up of a maximum of 24 Directors including:

- 3 Chair Directors
- 6 Community Directors covering six geographical areas that make up the whole of the District
- 6 Voluntary Sector Directors
- 6 Community of Interest Directors
- 3 Independent Directors

Each Director represents a certain geographical area or a certain Community of Interest and promotes the issues of those groups and individuals within VOX. Again we have a two way communication channel where our members get to know who their Board representative is and let them know of any relevant issues, and where Board members can report back to the people they represent.

Elections are held annually whereby Community Directors are elected by Community Organisations; Voluntary Sector Directors are elected by Voluntary Sector Organisations; Community of Interest Directors are elected by Community of Interest Organisations; and Independent Directors are elected by Individual Company Members. A third of the Board stands down every year, so that the Board is continuously representative of our members.

You can find out who your Board representative is by turning overleaf where we introduce you to our current Board or by visiting our website [www.voxnet.org.uk](http://www.voxnet.org.uk). If you would like to contact our Board members please email us at [board@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:board@voxnet.org.uk) stating which Board member you would like to contact and what your query is.

## Skills & Work Delivery Group looking for Voluntary and Community Sector Representative

Our Local Strategic Partnership, Wakefield Together, is looking to recruit a representative from the Voluntary and Community Sector to the Skills & Work Delivery Group. Some of the priorities of this group include bringing more people into employment, meeting employers' skills needs, building a more entrepreneurial District, improving employment rates in the District, having more people with mental health and learning disabilities in employment and having a higher skilled workforce in the District.

If you would like more information on this post please contact Tony Dean on 01977 691927 or email him at [tony@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:tony@voxnet.org.uk)

# Meet your VOX Representatives

Wakefield Together Board *and* Safer & Stronger Thematic Partnership  
Robin Barron



Robin Barron's involvement with the development of communities started 35 years ago when he left teaching to take up a post in a County Education Department. In that role he became heavily involved with one of the twelve pilot Community Development Projects in the early 1970's, the development of village halls and community centres, and the development of some of the first community schools. Contact with other voluntary groups then developed through involvement with a variety of grant aid schemes, especially in sport and physical recreation. This was maintained throughout his employment with the Sports Council/Sport England. This included work with disadvantaged geographical communities as well as the unemployed, disabled and women's groups.

On retiring Robin felt that he had something to offer the voluntary sector from his vast experience. As such, and as a trained social geographer with both Local and Central Government experience, he is able to understand and articulate local needs on the Wakefield Together Board and the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership.

## Healthier Communities Thematic Partnership, Tony Dean

Tony Dean has had a lengthy involvement in a number of sectors including Education, Local Government and the National Health Service. Educated at Liverpool University, with his first degree being a BA Honours in Politics, subsequently followed by a B.Phil in Latin American Studies. He later obtained a PGCE from the University of Leeds.



He worked for a number of years in the Further Education sector and was latterly the Head of the Faculty of Care, Health and Science at Rother Valley College. He has been a Governor of a number of local schools and also Wakefield District College. Prior to working for VOX he was an elected member for 18 years on Wakefield Metropolitan District Council and for eight of them the Chair of the Community and Social Services Committee.

Tony has served with the National Health Service, initially as a member of a Health Authority and also a Non- Executive Director of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service NHS Trust for 8 years up to 2006.

## Skills, Enterprise & Work Thematic Partnership, Ken Wild



Ken Wild's interest in training and teaching started when he was doing his National Service and developed over the following Fifty years. In 1969 Ken set up and ran a small 'off the job' training centre for first year engineering apprentices and subsequently this extended to adult retraining within the company. He then gained a Training Officer, and subsequently a Personnel Management qualification. A further move saw Ken as Training Officer for a medium size building contractor in Leeds followed by an appointment as Health & Safety Officer with Leeds City Council. Since then he has worked for many major contractors either directly for specific projects such as the BA World Cargo centre at Heathrow Airport and every job has always included some input into the training function.

"As a qualified tradesman, and a practising Health & Safety professional I am passionate about the real need for our schools and teaching establishments to stop selling trade training short. We are quickly losing the ability to produce good quality tradesmen. My objective as a member of this group is to try to encourage members to push for better trade or vocational training for the young people in the Wakefield District."

## Knowledge and Advanced Economies Sub Group, Hilary Shockett

Hilary Shockett has a background in both the university and commercial sectors; working with a wide range of companies both in this country and abroad. Working towards gaining Investors in People she developed and delivered Directorate wide training for Calderdale Local Authority and set up learning centres for Nestle and First Bus. She currently manages a voluntary organisation, Pontefract Live at Home, that actively works to improve the health and wellbeing of the elderly. She is a founder member of VISOP (Voluntary Integrated Services for Older People) an association of local voluntary organisations who come together to give mutual support and share best practice.



Having been heavily involved in introducing work-based development she is extremely keen to see firms have a greater part to play in the design of new learning in order to achieve a higher skilled workforce. Previously working closely with companies, local authorities and other agencies to increase the skills, confidence and motivation of local people she hopes that by being a representative on the Knowledge and Advanced Economies Sub Group she can continue to foster this.

# Introducing the VOX Board.....

Over the past few editions we've been bringing you updates on new VOX Directors, so we thought it was about time we introduced you to the VOX Board of Directors as a whole. The Board is made up of members of the Voluntary and Community sectors and individuals across the Wakefield District. There are representatives from each geographical area across the District, representatives of different Communities of Interest such as Disabled People, and representatives from both local and national Voluntary Sector organisations such as Wakefield District Citizen's Advice Bureau.

## The Chairs



VOX Chair Robin Barron has been involved in the voluntary and community sector for up to 40 years and is the delegate for Stanley Sports and Social Club as well as the Acting Chair for Wakefield District Sports Forum. He is also involved in Disport and the Federation of Disability Sports.



Vice Chair Keith Aaron is also the Vice Chair and delegate for Wakefield District Sports Forum and is also involved in a number of other voluntary and community sector organisations including WMCD Community Assembly, The Federation of Yorkshire Sport and Wakefield Probus Club.

Vice Chair Ken McRitchie is the delegate for Pontefract Community Partnership and is also involved in a number of other groups including Pontefract Sports & Social Club and Pontefract South Live At Home Working Group. Ken has been involved in the voluntary sector for more than 30 years.



## Voluntary Sector Directors



Ken Taylor has been the Chief Executive of Groundwork since 1995 and is a **Voluntary Sector National Director** on the VOX Board. Central to his approach is partnership working with all sectors of the community and as such he sits on the Boards of several organisations and is Chair of the Safer & Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership for Wakefield Together.



As Chief Officer of Age Concern Wakefield District, Paula Bee has been selected onto the VOX board as a **Voluntary Sector National Director**. To name just a few of her many other roles, Paula is a member of the Older People's Partnership Board, the Strategy Group for an Ageing Population and has been a School Governor in three schools over fifteen years.



Liz Halliday is the Chief Executive of Wakefield District Citizens Advice Bureau and joined the VOX board as a **Voluntary Sector National Director**. Liz has worked in voluntary sector management since 1993 and is looking forward to using her knowledge and experience to contribute to the Board.



Mary White is a **Voluntary Sector Local Director**. She previously worked for the DHSS in Wakefield and Castleford. Now retired and living in Normanton she has been a Normanton Town Councillor for the past 10 years and is now Deputy Mayor. She has a particular interest in health and was involved in the former Mid Yorkshire Hospitals PPI Forum.



Jan Power is a **Voluntary Sector Local Director**. She has lived and worked in the Pontefract area for more than 40 years. She spent 26 years working as a nurse and also runs an Information and Support service at the Mid Yorkshire Trust Hospitals for the Society for Epilepsy, is Chair of the Mid Yorkshire Epilepsy Support Group and is one of the Vice Chairs of the Wakefield LINK Temporary Members Council.



Wendy Wilson is a new addition to our Board as a **Voluntary Sector Local Director**. Her experience includes teaching adult literacy and reading for the Talking Newspaper for the Blind. She is also a member Normanton Inner Wheel Club which is part of the largest women's organisation in the world.

## Community Directors



John Anderson is a Community Director representing **Crofton, Ryhill & Walton; Wakefield East; Wakefield South**. John has a strong background in the local Community and Voluntary Sector both in a paid and volunteering capacity. He is also Local Correspondent for the Wakefield Express covering the Eastmoor area.



Tom Longfield is the Community Director for **Stanley & Outwood East; Wakefield North; Wakefield West; Wrenthorpe & Outwood West**. After being a Director of a company for 18 years Tom moved into the Voluntary Sector after retirement and hopes to be able to use his business experience for the good of local communities.

Denis Leek is the Community Director for **Airedale & Ferry Fryston; Altofts & Whitwood; Castleford Central & Glasshoughton; Normanton**.



Denis is the Vice Chair and VOX delegate from Whitwood Community Action Group and has been involved with this group for several years. He is also Vice President of the West Yorkshire Association of Football League and is a Football League Referee Assessor.

David Rowland is the Community Director for **Ossett; Horbury & South Ossett; Wakefield Rural**. David retired to Horbury in 2001 and soon became heavily involved with the Community Council of which he is the Chair, and the Churches Together Group where he is Secretary. He strongly believes that the voluntary sector is essential if community cohesion is to become a reality.



Ken Wild is the VOX delegate for Normanton & District Lions Club and has been involved with this group for several years. Ken is also involved with the Liver Transplant Support Group at St James Hospital Leeds, helping to support those that have had or are waiting for a liver transplant.



## Community of Interest Directors



Darren Byford is the Community of Interest Director for the **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community**. He is also involved in many voluntary and community roles including acting as Chief Executive for the hospital radio service, being a governor for a local primary school and supporting Pride not Prejudice.



Abdul Aziz is a Community of Interest Director for the **BME Community**. He was Chair of the former Wakefield Asian Community Forum and has been involved in the voluntary and community sector since 1972.

Bill Storey has been selected as a Communities of Interest Director for **Health**. His expertise and interests are around health issues but he's also keenly involved in his local community. Bill's roles range from being involved with the LINK (Local Involvement Network) to being an Ackworth Parish Councillor.



Masoud Maddah was selected onto the VOX Board as a Community of Interest Director and the representative from the **BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Forum**.



Having emigrated to the UK in 2001, Masoud settled in Wakefield and began working in the third sector, getting involved in community activities and research. His belief that refugee communities should have their own representation led him to set up RASA, the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project.

## Individual Directors



Peter Savage has been active in the local community for many years with a focus on the arts. He has been Chair of Development Initiatives for Voluntary Arts (DIVA) and now sits on their Board of Directors. He also sits on the Management Committee for The Elizabethan's Amateur Operatic Society serving as Publicity Manager.

David Mitchell has a background in chemistry before moving into sales, logistics and manufacturing as a Company Director. He is active in the community and currently volunteers as a co-optee on the Local Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee, works with the Ossett Civic Society and is Treasurer of the Friends of Green Park, Ossett.



Tony Howell is the Community of Interest Director representing **Disabled People**. He is particularly interested in housing issues, Disability Rights and community issues. His reasons for joining the VOX Board were that he feels he has a good working knowledge of the Community and Voluntary sectors across the District and brings specialist knowledge on disability issues to the Board.



### Current Board Vacancies:

**2 x Community Directors** representing **Area 1: Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton; Hemsworth; South Elmsall & South Kirkby** and **Area 3: Featherstone; Knottingley; Pontefract North; Pontefract South**  
**1 x Community of Interest Director**

If you are interested in becoming a VOX Director please contact Helen Watkiss on 01977 691920 or via email at [helen@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:helen@voxnet.org.uk)

# VOX Convention

Wednesday 22nd October  
10am - 2pm, including lunch  
Pontefract Town Hall



**The Green Paper, Preparing Britain for the Future - the Draft Legislative Programme 2008-09, sets out the Government's plans for legislation in the coming Parliamentary session.** This Convention will look at three proposed Bills which are about the personalisation and improvement of services and empowering citizens:

- The Policing and Crime Reduction Bill
- The National Health Service Reform Bill
- The Community Empowerment, Housing and Economic Regeneration Bill

Speakers include Superintendent Mark Mulcahy from West Yorkshire Police along with representatives from NHS Wakefield District and Government Office for Yorkshire & Humber who will talk about the relevant Bills. There will then be the chance to take part in discussions based around the three proposed Bills.

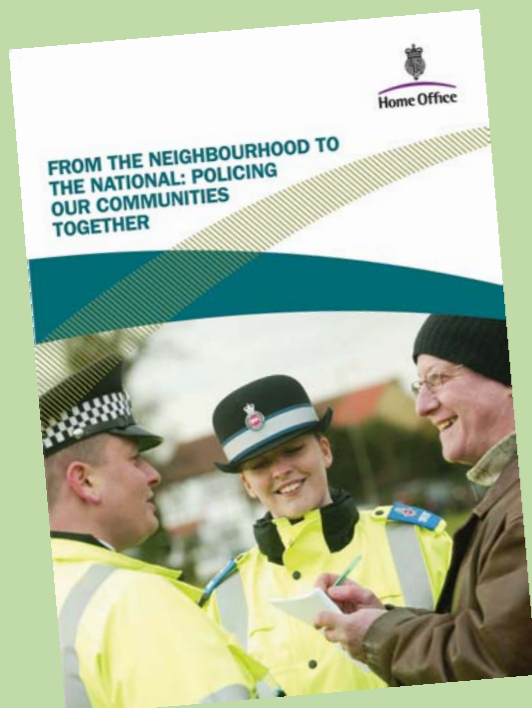
*We brought you information on the Community Empowerment Bill in the last edition of VOXPop so over the next few pages we give you the lowdown on the other two that we will cover at the Convention.*

**If you would like to attend please contact Lis on 01977 691922 or email [lis@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:lis@voxnet.org.uk)**

## VOX Briefing: Policing and Crime Reduction Bill

From the neighbourhood to the national: policing our communities together *by Helen Watkiss, VOX Partnership & Policy Officer*

**New plans to cut red tape and give the police more time to get on with the job of reducing crime have been included in a new Home Office consultation published this summer.**



**The Policing Green Paper explains how the government will work with police to prevent crime, improve public confidence and give people more information about crime and policing where they live and work.**

More than ever before, its proposals are based on ideas that have come directly from the public and police officers. Many of these ideas have been gathered through events organised by the independent *Review of Policing* led by Sir Ronnie Flanagan, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, and the *Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime* Review led by Louise Casey. The formation of the Paper has also benefited from carefully prepared submissions from the Association of Police Authorities, and by the Association of Chief Police Officers as the professional leaders of the police service. The

Green Paper responds to the challenges and recommendations contained in those reports and submissions.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith has said that the country 'stands at a crossroads in the future of policing'. But that the service also faces unprecedented challenges and she added that this included 'new ways of working in partnership locally'.

In addressing these issues the Green Paper is divided into the three main sections of Empowering Citizens, Professionalising and Freeing up the Police, and a Strategic Role for Government.

Within the three parts it focuses on seven key issues:

- Improving the connection between the public and the police
- Reducing bureaucracy and developing technology
- Defining roles and leadership in the police service
- Focusing on development and deployment
- Coordinating change in policing
- Reinforcing collaboration between forces
- Improving performance in policing

Proposals in the Paper include:

- A new policing pledge setting out what local people can expect from their local police team - with clear national standards, including the amount of time spent on the beat, easy ways to contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team and clear response times to all calls and incidents.
- A stronger voice for local people - regular on crime, including crime maps and action being taken to tackle it and regular local meetings to discuss priorities backed by new directly elected Crime and Policing Representatives.
- Setting only one 'top down' numerical target for the police service to increase public confidence in the police and other agencies to reduce crime.

Of the call for the public to be more involved with police through elected crime and policing representatives the Home Secretary has said 'They will form the majority on police authorities, and will

### Useful definitions

**A Green Paper:** Policy and associated legislative changes presented as a discussion or consultation document. This is a proposal rather than a commitment to action.

**A White Paper:** A White Paper is a major policy proposal which could result in changing legislation.

**A Bill:** A Bill is a draft Act, an Act that has not yet been discussed, possibly amended and approved by Parliament. It is a proposal for a new piece of legislation - if approved by both the Houses, it will be "granted Royal Assent"

**Royal Assent:** The granting of Royal Assent is the method by which the Queen completes the legislative process. The Queen gives formal agreement to an Act of Parliament, allowing a Bill to pass into law.

**An Act:** An Act of Parliament is a Bill that has been granted Royal Assent and has become a law.  
*Progress of Bills including links to debates: [www.parliament.uk/business/bills\\_and\\_legislation.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/business/bills_and_legislation.cfm)*

be responsible for ensuring that the police are tackling the priorities that concern us most'.

In addition police will provide the public with:

- Regular information about crime in their region
- Maps showing where crimes have occurred
- Updates about actions taken to tackle crime
- Access to regular meetings to discuss local priorities with police

Other measures announced include:

- A new enhanced role for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary giving it a greater role to robustly scrutinise police performance
- Investment of an extra £25m in new technology to save police time and reduce the need for officers to return to the station to do paperwork
- The appointment of Jan Berry as an independent champion to further cut red tape and free police hours

The Home Secretary said the Green Paper sets out a new deal for the public and the police. 'I want to help the police to continue to cut crime, drive up confidence and deliver for the public. Today's plans give greater freedom for the police matched by more power to the public.'

The Home Office would like to hear your opinions about the proposed changes to the police service. Read more about these proposals on the Home Office Police website where you can also find instructions for responding. Responses need to be submitted by 10th October 2008  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

### The Independent Review of Policing by Sir Ronnie Flanagan

[www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/Review\\_of\\_policing\\_final\\_report/](http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/Review_of_policing_final_report/)

### The Crime and Communities Review: Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime

The result of an in depth, eight month study headed by Louise Casey, former head of the Government's Respect Task Force  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/crime](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/crime)

# The National Health Service Reform Bill & Draft Constitution

by Helen Watkiss, VOX Partnership & Policy Officer

**The main purpose of the planned National Health Service Reform Bill is to take forward proposals from Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review of the NHS in England that would require legislation to enable proposals to become reality.**

It is thought that the main elements of a Bill might be:

- Related to the NHS Constitution, a draft of which was published in July
- To enable and encourage Primary Care Trusts to be more responsive to their local communities
- To give greater scope for patients to shape the care they receive

The main benefits of a Bill could be:

- To reinforce the core purpose and values of the NHS and to introduce measures to make the NHS as effective at preventing ill health and promoting wellbeing as it is at cures
- To strengthen public involvement in Primary Care Trusts commissioning arrangements
- To allow the possibility for those patients who wish to do so to have greater control over the management of their care

## The NHS Next Stage Review

The Department of Health's *Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care* was published in July and says that they need to ensure that high quality care is a consistent part of everyone's experience of care and that services need to evolve to reflect the changes in healthcare and society.

Conclusions in the Review fall into the four broad themes of People Shaping Services; Promoting Healthy Lives; Continuously Improving Quality; and Leading Local Change.

The first theme of *People Shaping Services* includes the following proposals from the Department of Health. They say:

- We will promote personal and responsive services that systematically listen to and act on patient views. We are developing the GP patient survey to give patients a greater say in whether practices are providing not just fast, convenient access but an all round quality patient experience.
- We will help GPs work with community health

teams, pharmacies, social care, schools and other groups to give patients access to a greater range of services in their local communities that fit around their needs.

- Patients will have greater choice of GP practice and better information to help them choose. We will develop a fairer funding system, giving better rewards for GPs who provide responsive, accessible and high quality services.
- NHS Choices will provide greater information about all primary and community care services, so that the public can make informed choices.
- By 2010, some 15 million people with long term conditions will be offered their own personalised care plan. Named lead professionals will help ensure that plans and services are tailored to support the needs of those with the most complex care needs.
- We will publish a Patients' Prospectus to provide excellent advice for those wanting to take greater control of how they manage their long term conditions.
- Learning from social care, and working with patient groups, we will pilot individual budgets to help people have greater control of their health and care.

## The NHS Constitution

The proposed NHS Constitution published in July and marking 60 years of the NHS is about safeguarding its core principles and values for the next generation, whilst setting a clear direction for the future. It reaffirms rights to NHS services, free of charge and with equal access for all, and it enshrines patient rights to choice and to NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) approved drugs recommended by clinicians.

The Constitution states that the NHS belongs to the people and that it is there to improve our health, supporting us to keep mentally and physically well, to get better when we are ill and, when we cannot fully recover, to stay as well as we can. It says the NHS works at the limits of science, bringing the highest levels of human knowledge and skill to save lives and improve health. It touches our lives at times of basic human need, when care and compassion are what matter most.

The Constitution establishes the principles and values of the NHS in England. It sets out

commitments to patients, public and staff in the form of rights to which they are entitled and pledges which the NHS will strive to deliver, together with responsibilities which the public, patients and staff owe to each other to ensure that the NHS operates fairly and effectively.

All NHS bodies and private and third sector providers supplying NHS services will be required by law to take account of this Constitution in their decisions and actions.

The Constitution will be renewed every ten years, with the involvement of patients, public and staff. It will be accompanied by the *Handbook to the NHS Constitution*, to be renewed every three years, setting out current guidance on the rights, pledges, duties and responsibilities established by the Constitution. These requirements for renewal will be legally binding. They will guarantee that the principles and values which underpin the NHS are subject to regular review and recommitment; and that any government which seeks to alter the principles or values of the NHS, or the rights, pledges, duties and responsibilities set out will have to engage in a full and transparent debate with the public, patients and staff.

The Constitution is set out into the following sections:

- 1) Principles that guide the NHS
- 2a) Patients and the public – your rights and NHS pledges to you
- 2b) Patients and the public – your responsibilities
- 3a) Staff – your rights and NHS pledges to you
- 3b) Staff – your responsibilities

In Section 2a Patients and the public, the Constitution contains pledges, these are those things the NHS strives to do above and beyond its legal requirements. They include:

- Access to health services – 3 pledges
- Quality of care and environment – 2 pledges
- Nationally approved treatments, drugs and programmes – 1 pledge
- Respect, consent and confidentiality – 1 pledge
- Informed choice – 2 pledges
- Involvement in your healthcare and in the NHS – 2 pledges
- Complaint and redress – 2 pledges

In addition each Primary Care Trust will now be developing its own plans for improving the health of people locally, putting into practice the conclusions of the regional clinical pathway groups. In our area this is NHS Wakefield District; more details can be found at the new website: [www.wakefelddistrict.nhs.uk](http://www.wakefelddistrict.nhs.uk)

You can find the Constitution at: [www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications)

The Department of Health are consulting widely on the Constitution and how to put it into practice, until 17th October 2008. You can send your comments to: NHS Constitution, Room 611a, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS or email: [nhsconstitution@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nhsconstitution@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

## Focus on:

# Wakefield Talking Newspaper



**W**akefield Talking Newspaper (WTN) is of a group of volunteers who record the Wakefield Express onto tape and CD each week for blind or visually impaired people in the District.

There are four teams of volunteers consisting of readers and a technician and each Friday a team goes in to read a selection of articles from the Express. Included on a regular basis are front page articles, the doctor's casebook and the family notices. The process then involves a 'copy team' who copy the master tape and CD onto over 200 audio versions which are circulated around the District. Listeners can return them at their leisure. The group also record Wakefield Council's Citizen magazine and issue some additional magazine tapes during the course of the year.

**THIS SERVICE IS COMPLETELY FREE.** The postage is also free and is covered by the Royal Mail concession.

If anyone would like to have more information or would be interested in getting involved or making a donation, please leave your contact details on the studio answerphone on 01924 201000 and a volunteer will get in touch with you.

*WTN is a registered charity and relies on donations.*

# Neighbourhood Networks

If you are involved in a voluntary or community group or an individual who is interested in getting involved in tackling local issues you can join a neighbourhood network or community partnership in your area.

**O**ver the summer, the VOX Community Engagement Team along with representatives from the various Networks have had stalls at a number of summer galas and other community events working to raise the profile of the Networks and recruit new members. Events included Pontefract Liquorice Festival, Knottingley and Ferrybridge Gala, Crofton Carnival, South Hiendley Gala, Ryhill and Havercroft Community Gala, Ossett Centenary celebration, Ossett Gala, Normanton Gala and Re-Connect Information Day

We are also pleased to report on two more Networks bringing the total in the District up to fourteen.

The Featherstone and Streethouse Neighbourhood Network (incorporating Ackton and Purston Jaglin) had its first meeting on September 16th with over 32 individuals representing 10 community groups, statutory agencies and the local Town and District Council. The representatives of the groups came together to network, identify common issues and concerns as well as look at new projects and ideas for the Featherstone area.

The meeting saw many groups exchanging ideas, contact details and information about their individual projects. VOX would like to thank all the groups and individuals who turned out for the inaugural meeting the next meeting of the network will be held on the 21st of October at 7pm at the Chesneys Resource Centre. The meeting is open to any individual or group in the Featherstone and Streethouse area.

The other Network is Hemsworth although in this case, VOX will work with the Hemsworth and District Partnership, which is already active in the Hemsworth area. By the time this issue of VOXPop goes to press, VOX will have attended a Partnership meeting to look at how VOX and the Partnership can work to the mutual benefit of the

local community. Our Community Engagement Worker for the area, Julian Glover, will then be going out into the community doing some outreach work encouraging people to get involved.

The latest news from some of our other networks:

## **South Kirkby, South Elmsall and Moorthorpe Neighbourhood Network:**

Network Members have been recruited as representatives of the community on The Joint Liaison Working Group for the Waste Recycling Plant proposed for the South Kirkby Colliery Site. The Network has also secured representation from various agencies for planned themed meetings in autumn. The themes are Social Housing, Public Transport, Waste Management and Recycling, Regeneration and Development.

## **Crofton, Walton and Sharlston Neighbourhood Network:**

The need for a public transport link between Crofton and Sharlston was one of the issues mentioned in the last edition of VOXPop. The Network is organising a special meeting in November to bring together all interested parties to discuss the options available.

## **Normanton and Altofts Neighbourhood Network:**

Network members are in the process of setting up a community group to tackle the lack of play areas in the area. They are also looking to identify new projects or ideas and welcome suggestions from the local community. Please note the Network meetings for October 08 – March 09 will be held at 1pm (for venue details please see the VOX website)

## **Kettlethorpe, Chapelthorpe, Durkar and Crigglestone Neighbourhood Network:**

Access to public transport is currently a major issue in this network with many members concerned at the lack of connections for Newmillerdam and the rest of the rural ward. This issue has now been

forwarded to the Metro Rural Transport Officer who will highlight the issue at a Metro meeting due to be held on the 14th October at Wakefield County Hall.

## **Wakefield North & West Neighbourhood Network (formerly Lupset and Thornes):**

Outreach work in the Network area is on going with meetings arranged with the different schools and community groups over the next few months. A membership review questionnaire is currently being circulated to all the network members to help identify any issues members may have. The deadline to return completed questionnaires is the 31st October 2008.

## **Ossett and Horbury Neighbourhood Network:**

As a result of the successful centenary event, groups in the Network are currently identifying projects to support the restoration of the Ossett

You can get up to date information on all the Neighbourhood Network meetings from the events diary on the VOX website ([www.voxnet.org.uk/calendar.asp](http://www.voxnet.org.uk/calendar.asp)) or you can subscribe to VOXNow a fortnightly e-bulletin. To subscribe to this service contact [info@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:info@voxnet.org.uk). If you are unable to attend a meeting but want to get involved still, each Network has its own page on our website including discussion forum areas, meeting minutes and updates.

Groups, organisations and interested individuals are welcome to attend whichever Network is more accessible to them. The Networks have an open agenda through which you can find out about other groups in your area, promote your group, raise a concern or a project idea. Details of the meetings and venues can be obtained by calling the Community Engagement Team on 01977 691924/5 or emailing [wajid@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:wajid@voxnet.org.uk) or [julian@voxnet.org.uk](mailto:julian@voxnet.org.uk).

Town Hall. Current Network issues have focused upon the lack of DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant public or open buildings in the area as well as the ongoing issues around youth work provision in the area. The Network is also getting ready to support the groups involved in the Christmas lights switch on event which will take place in November.

## **Eastmoor, College Grove, Kirkgate & Pinders Area Neighbourhood Network:**

The July meeting of the Network welcomed a number of different agencies and development workers who have been working in the area along with representatives from the St Johns area of Wakefield.

Please note network meeting times will shift back in to early afternoon from October onwards please see the VOX website for date and venue details.

## Knottingley & Ferrybridge Network takes to the water

**C**ommunity members in Knottingley and Ferrybridge had a chance to take to the water on Monday 15th September giving them the opportunity to see a different view of the two towns from the River Aire. The Surewaters barge, a Selby based community project, was in the local area and members of the VOX Neighbourhood Network for Knottingley and Ferrybridge decided this was the perfect opportunity to come up with development ideas for the neglected riverside area.

One of the focuses of the Network, which meets monthly, is to get involved with the development of a town plan for Knottingley looking at ways of attracting visitors to the area. They are also hoping to start applying for grants to help further this and other initiatives including organising an arts project to raise the profile of the annual Knottingley Carnival. Councillor Glenn Burton, who attended said, "This was a great opportunity to see Knottingley in a different light, looking at the rich heritage that was once a part of the town and how we can bring some of this back by working together as a community."



## Integrated Offender Management: Partners working together to reduce re-offending

Susanne Soerensen, Probation PPO Coordinator, Wakefield District

**When a crime occurs do you want to know that the offender is caught, that justice will be done and carried out effectively and fairly?**

**Do you believe that when offenders leave the Criminal Justice System they will return to "the straight and narrow" and become law abiding citizens?**

**Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is an initiative which combines two existing and well known projects, the Drugs Interventions Programme (DIP) and the Prolific and Priority Offender Programme (PPO). IOM is about understanding what makes an individual commit crime. By understanding these triggers relevant agencies can work closely with the offender to resolve the underlying issues which can then result in breaking the offending cycle. For example, an offender who commits burglaries to fund their drug addiction and lives rough may need various interventions. These could include a drug treatment programme, links with Housing, Health and Job Centre Plus.**

Previously, this individual would have been sent to prison, served a short sentence and released back into the cycle of re-offending. Integrated Offender Management aims to break the cycle of re-offending which will lead to reduced crime in the communities. IOM works with offenders that are identified through intelligence from local communities, police and other agencies. These offenders could be involved in crime, anti social behaviour or substance misuse in the local area. Once these offenders causing most harm to local communities are identified, IOM can assess the need of the public, victims and the offender. IOM uses a tool kit to identify the needs of the offender, assess the level of support needed and what agencies should be involved. It also takes into account their willingness

and motivation to engage, and their current situation.

It is the work with those offenders who are released from prisons with no interventions (those most likely to re-offend) that makes IOM different. IOM brings together a number of partnerships and voluntary sector agencies with the common aim to integrate these offenders back into the community as law abiding citizens.

Rather than reinventing the wheel, partners in IOM are building on the good practice of agencies and organisations already working with offenders. Last year Foundation Housing were successful in gaining Local Area Agreement funding to provide support to a number of prolific offenders not already in appropriate accommodation. As the scheme has evolved, they have been able to incorporate offender management methods to tackle middle and lower level offending. As a result additional police roles have been developed, including some within Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

The agencies involved in the IOM Programme in Wakefield are West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Probation Service, Wakefield District Youth Offending Team, Foundation Housing, Drugs Interventions Programme, Turning Point, NHS Wakefield District, Wakefield District Council and Wakefield Together. As well as bringing together the DIP and PPO programmes, links have also been formed with organisations providing substance misuse support to offenders, and closer working with youth offending teams.

IOM is about positively making a difference. The main aims are to protect the public, rehabilitate offenders and reduce offending.



## News in brief

Free Preparation for Work course for people with long term conditions

**Arthritis Care (North England), based in Wakefield, is running a course designed to help people with long term health conditions return to work. The course 'Preparation for Work' is run over eight x 3 hour sessions, with one session per week for eight weeks. Starting on Thursday 16th October, the course will be held at the Art House, Drury Lane, Wakefield and will be free to participants.**

The first five weeks of the course are designed to help people better manage their long term condition and will cover subjects such as action planning, problem solving, communication with Health Care Professionals, relaxation, exercise, healthy eating and positive thinking. The final three weeks of the course cover such areas as, identifying personal skills, reading job adverts, researching employers, writing CV's, speculative letters and application forms, preparation for interviews and how to answer interview questions.

Tony Murray the North England Training Services Manager for Arthritis Care who will be running the course said, "This is the perfect course for people who have been out of work and are looking to return. The course helps them manage their condition better, it builds their confidence and improves their skills to pursue job applications."

Anyone who is looking to return to work and who has a long term condition such as asthma, angina, arthritis, back pain, chronic fatigue, ME or similar are invited to apply for a position on the course by contacting Arthritis Care on 01924 882150.

### Go online at your local library

**Wakefield Libraries are offering free one to one assistance to anyone who wants to learn how to use a computer. Friendly and helpful staff are available at four local libraries to give you a hand to get online.**

You can go at your own pace and there's no need to face an exam! Just ring or call in to book an appointment  
Flanshaw Library, 01924 302270  
Knottingley Library, 01977 722450  
Normanton Library, 01924 302525  
South Elmsall Library, 01977 723220  
You can set up your own e-mail and learn how to use the internet.

If you're already a whiz with the mouse, but don't have your own computer you're welcome to use the computers in your local library free of charge, all libraries in Wakefield MDC have public access machines.

Joan Bennett, Cultural Officer: Information & Learning Wakefield MDC Library HQ Balne Lane, Wakefield, WF2 ODQ, Tel: 01924 304062 Fax: 01924 302245, Email: joanbennett@wakefield.gov.uk

Have your say on new GP-led health centre

**Staff from the local NHS have been out and about asking for the views of local people. They want to know what sort of services patients want to see in a new GP-led health centre which is due to open next year.**

The health centre, which will be open 8 til 8, seven days a week will provide a range of health services in addition to GP consultations. It will not replace existing GP practices, but will provide an extra service for local people.

It will be open to people who are not already registered with a GP, as well as to people who work or shop in the city and who find it difficult to get to their own GP in working hours. Patients will be able to make an appointment, or just drop in.

A leaflet giving information about the new health centre was distributed to shoppers in Wakefield yesterday. As well as outlining plans for the centre, the leaflet also includes a feedback form making it easy for people to have their say.

Alan Wittrick, Chief Executive, said: "Nationally and locally people have been telling us they want better access to GP services so this is a great new development for Wakefield. We have listened to what has been said, but we still have a lot of work to do to make sure we provide the services that patients need. That's where you can help us. Please pick up a leaflet and fill in the feedback form and send it back to us so we know what you think about it and what services you want us to provide."

More information is available on Wakefield District Primary Care Trust's website at [www.wakefielddistrict.nhs.uk](http://www.wakefielddistrict.nhs.uk). Or, you can ring 0845 602 4832, or email [ppi@wdpct.nhs.uk](mailto:ppi@wdpct.nhs.uk), to request a copy of the leaflet and comment form.

VOX

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**Printed on 100% Recycled paper**

VOXPop is the magazine of VOX, the Community Empowerment Network for Wakefield District. Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of either VOX itself or its partner organisations. All articles submitted are edited at the editor's discretion. This magazine was funded through the Local Area Agreement. VOXPop is published by VOX, Chesneys Resource Centre, Regent Street, Featherstone, WF7 5EW. Printed in England by DC Print, South Kirkby.

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