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PCTs from across the country are beginning to make difficult decisions on funding services. In Somerset there is a strong message that clinical engagement through PBC will be more important than ever. With this in mind we feel that an understanding of the budget setting process would be helpful. We are therefore organising a half day workshop entitled “Preparing the Ground for Real Budgets” – details below:

Budget Setting Workshop: Wednesday 3 March 2010 – “Preparing the Ground for Real Budgets”

As mentioned in the January edition of WH.C News, the budget setting workshop is being held at Yeovil Town Football Club, Huish Park, Yeovil, BA22 8YF on Wednesday 3 March and starts at 2.00 pm with lunch available from 1.00 pm. Practice Managers/PBC Leads are encouraged to register for this event as it promises to be an informative afternoon. The agenda is as follows:

2.00 pm – 2.05 pm	Welcome (David Rooke, WH.C Chair)
2.05 pm – 3.00 pm	PBC Budget Setting for 2010/11
3.00 pm – 3.15 pm	Tea
3.15 pm – 3.50 pm	Presentation and Discussion on the New Model of Care for Persistent Pain
3.50 pm – 4.10 pm	Somerset Diabetes Service Update
4.10 pm – 4.30 pm	Elective Care, Advice and Guidance (Dr Matthew Dolman, WH.C Vice-Chair)
4.30 pm – 4.45 pm	Next Steps (David Rooke, WH.C Chair/Paul Bearman, WH.C General Manager)

Please Email sue.vowles@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk to reserve your place.

RightSteps

Dr David Rooke, WH.C Chair, is attending a “RightSteps” contract review meeting on Thursday 18 February 2010 and would appreciate receiving your feedback on the service, ie suggestions for improving the service; examples of any prolonged waiting times; any difficulties encountered by the patients, etc. Please Email David (David.Rooke@tauntonroadmc.nhs.uk) by/on Tuesday 16 February 2010.

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Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre

In the January issue of WH.C News we had an item on the future of SMTC. Please Email Rosie.benneyworth@stjamesmc.nhs.uk with your feedback by/on Wednesday 17 February 2010.

In considering this we would like comments on:

1. What services would you like to see provided at SMTC?
2. For practices further away from SMTC – any ideas that would facilitate the use of SMTC due to geographical factors?
3. Any other suggestions?

Carers Awareness Training

We are delighted to confirm that WyvernHealth.Com has won a bid for £30,000 to deliver Carers Awareness Training to all Somerset practices. Please identify who will attend from your practice by Emailing Jayne.nicholas@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk with attendee's name, telephone number and Email address and we will do the rest. The first 30 practices to respond will each receive a **FREE** display rack for carers' information. The training will be delivered in two phases:

- **Phase 1 - £150 for each practice for backfill or to allow staff to attend on their day off and be paid.** Each practice to identify a **Carers Champion** who is likely to be from reception team leaders or middle managers, but could also be a health care assistant or someone who is actually a carer working in the practice.

The Carers Champions will attend a half day training session in March which will be delivered by St John Ambulance in one of four venues across the county – details in attached application form.

- **Phase 2 - £150 for each practice to cover backfill and/or lunch.** The practice Carers Champion together with support from St John Ambulance and/or a volunteer carer will deliver a one hour Carers Awareness Session in the practice, identifying themselves as a practice resource for carers, communication channel for carers issues, giving A4 flowcharts and free resources to all members of staff making access to help easier.

Further information: Carers have been raised as an important issue at recent WyvernHealth.Com Advisory Group Meetings and local Patient Participation Group meetings. WH.C is also keen to offer training to practice staff and therefore has taken advantage of the opportunity to bid for this funding, although we are aware that the timescales for delivery are rather tight.

Further details and an application form can be found at <http://www.wyvernhealth.com/carers.htm>

PAMM Update

The PAMM group is progressing the WH.C prescribing agenda and is more engaged with NHS Somerset on the prescribing uplift; the allocation of the prescribing budget to practices; the prescribing quality markers in the PBC LES; and a number of other topics.

James Hickman, representing the Taunton locality, has decided to stand down from the group due to clinical commitments and, therefore, we have a vacancy on the group for a GP from the Taunton area. For further information on this role please contact either Jon Hincks (Jonathan.Hincks@chedmed.nhs.uk) or Paul Bearman (paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk).

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