

Our Ref: KEB/gb

To: Managers,  
Community Nursing Services

87 Coval Lane  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM1 1TQ  
Tel: 01245 544 600  
Fax: 01245 544 610

Email: [gemma@npag.org.uk](mailto:gemma@npag.org.uk)

10 October 2008

Dear Colleague,

**2008 District Nurses / 2009 Community Nursing Services Best Value Group**

At the last meeting of the District Nurses Best Value Group, members discussed how best to develop the group for the future benefit of members. It was agreed from 2009 the group would amend membership to become a 'Community Nursing Services Best Value Group'.

The last meeting of the current District Nursing BVG will be on Thursday 20 November 2008 at the Nuneaton Premier Inn. Members agreed to invite those interested in joining the future Community Nursing Services BVG to attend on 20<sup>th</sup> November free of charge. The agenda will include a presentation, "Development of Integrated Teams from a Care Trust Perspective".

The District Nurses BVG is a networking forum that really works. Members share knowledge openly and honestly. The quarterly meetings provide the opportunity for members to benefit from: -

- Face-to-face networking
- Exchange of experience; information;
- Debating policy;
- Highlighting achievements;
- Identifying innovation;
- Making new contacts and consolidating those already made.

Outside of meetings, members support each other and benefit in their own, daily roles from the knowledge shared.

In the current series of meetings to date, members have: -

- received presentations on: -
  - Managing provider services
  - Outlining the way forward in district nursing
  - Productivity improvement programme (PIP) Time to Care
- covered agenda items that include: -
  - Models for Perceptorships
  - The role of District Nurses
  - Capacity monitoring
  - Workforce planning and workload and activity benchmarking
  - Major service redesign
  - Developing individual budgets (social care)
  - Impact of changes regarding the removal of clinical waste from patients homes
  - Moves from geographically based to practice based staff

At all meetings, an agenda item was 'Hot Topics' – for members to raise any item which they considered may be of interest to others, or seek help and advice for colleagues. There have been many occasions when members have copied each other policy/procedure documents, thus saving colleagues valuable time and effort.

Membership of the District Nurses BVG offers the additional benefits of: -

- CPD certification for attendance at meetings, to contribute to members' continued professional/personal development (as part of the 'lifelong learning' process and KSF Framework);
- access to the NPAG *NetWork*;
- a dedicated private discussion forum on NHS Networks;
- optional participation in other NPAG national benchmarking exercises;
- discounted delegate fees at NPAG events.

The 2007-08 District Nurses Best Value Group's Annual Report will be available shortly after the last meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 with information about the past year's programme. This will be posted on the NPAG website: [www.npag.org.uk](http://www.npag.org.uk) or you can request a copy from this office, email: [gemma@npag.org.uk](mailto:gemma@npag.org.uk)

### **2009 Meetings Programme**

On 20<sup>th</sup> November members will discuss topics for inclusion in the meetings programme for the coming year, together with dates and venues for future meetings.

Members currently prefer meetings in the Birmingham area.

### **20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 Meeting (Meeting 4 of 4 for 2008)**

Enclosed with this letter is a Registration Form for attendance at the last meeting of the current District Nurse BVG at Nuneaton Premier Inn on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008. If you, or a colleague, would like to attend to learn more about the BVG and the opportunity to discuss future plans for the BVG; please complete and return this form by fax or email to Gemma Bergamini (FAX: 01245 544 610 or email: [gemma@npag.org.uk](mailto:gemma@npag.org.uk))

If you are unable to attend on 20<sup>th</sup> November but would like to receive further information about the Community Nursing services BVG, please email Gemma to express your interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01245 544 600 or e-mail: [gemma@npag.org.uk](mailto:gemma@npag.org.uk) should you require further information.

In the meantime, I look forward to meeting you in November.

Yours sincerely

*Phil Carruthers*

Phil Carruthers  
Facilitator, District Nurses Best Value Group

CC Gemma Bergamini