

12 November 2012

Dear Colleague

I am writing to you as a registered user of the NHS Wiltshire Public Health Resource Centre, in order to explain a number of changes regarding this service. As you may be aware, Public Health is moving to Wiltshire Council (County Hall offices in Trowbridge) on 3rd December 2012. The move to Wiltshire Council has provided us with the opportunity to review the resource centre service and as a result, we will be changing the way in which the Resource Centre services are delivered.

There are two main elements to the service the resource centre provides – leaflet / poster orders and resource loans. We will need to change the way in which the service is delivered as we won't have the space to host a physical resource centre in our new accommodation.

Resources

We have seen a smaller number of users borrowing a much more narrower range of resources than in the past, resulting in less than 5 loans per month on average. As a result of this we have undertaken a review of resource available. We have disposed of old and out of date resources. Of the few resources remaining that have been loaned out in the past, many were borrowed by the same organisation on a recurring basis. Items have therefore been donated to those organisations.

We have ensured continued availability of school related resources. Schools can borrow a range of educational resources, including those relating to health, Science and PSHE Education by subscribing to the Wiltshire & Swindon Learning Resources <http://php.wiltshire.gov.uk/wslr/index.php> Schools can also contact the Wiltshire Council Personal Development Education Advisers Nick Bolton & Sarah King on 01225 793349 to discuss use of PSHE Education resources, a range of which are usually available to view at related training and network meetings. Details of related support and local schemes of work can be found at <http://www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org/>

Leaflets and Posters

In recent years the resource centre has been used less frequently than in the past for leaflet orders. This is due to a number of reasons including increasing use of internet to access health information by members of the public and a move by publishers of

leaflets to host more and more literature online, rather than making it available in paper form.

As we will no longer have a physical resource centre to store leaflets and posters, our plan is to develop a catalogue which will be available to our registered users that will highlight leaflets and posters that are available and where they can be ordered from. We will keep this up to date and will hopefully make it available online in the near future. So whilst we won't have a physical resource centre, our commitment will be to maintain a virtual directory of leaflets and posters that are available to you from other sources.

This doesn't change targeted campaign work that we undertake – for example, we will continue to distribute NHS Health Checks leaflets to practices on a timely basis. In addition, Public Health staff will still be available as a source of advice and information regarding specific queries relating to public health issues.

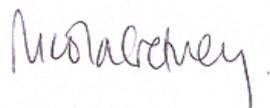
Changes will be implemented from Friday 23rd November, which means we will be able to accept leaflet and poster orders up until close of play on Tuesday 20th November. Please fax or email your orders to 01380 733809 or resource.centre@wiltshire.nhs.uk as soon as possible, as leaflets and posters will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Alternatively, we would like to invite you to an 'open house' in the resource centre, where you will be able to access the remaining stock of leaflets and posters and take any that will be of use to you in the future. **The 'open house' will take place on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd November from 9.00a.m. – 4.30p.m.** We will provide appointment slots of half an hour, which will be available to a maximum of two visitors. If you would like to book a slot to access the leaflets and posters, please contact Sabina Gillman on 01380 733890 or email resource.centre@wiltshire.nhs.uk. Again, appointments and leaflets / posters will be available on a first come, first served basis.

If you require further information regarding these changes please contact Tracy Daszkiewicz tracy.daszkiewicz@wiltshire.nhs.uk or Nicola Cretney nicola.cretney@wiltshire.nhs.uk who will be able to help.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support regarding the resource centre in recent years and for your understanding as we make our transition to a new way of working with you on the provision of information in the future.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Cretney
Deputy Director, Public Health