



# Warrington LINK

## Prescription Charges

### Should they be abolished altogether?

Last year Gordon Brown announced the abolition of prescription charges for cancer patients from 1st April 2009. A review on plans to abolish charges for patients with long term conditions in England will report in the Autumn. The review has brought responses from a wide range of organisations– who want charges abolished altogether. The LINK wanted to know what the public thought. A questionnaire was produced to ask the public's views, this was disseminated throughout Warrington, the LINK asked:

- Do you currently pay for your prescriptions?
- Has the cost of prescriptions ever prevented you obtaining your medicine?
- Do you feel the prescription

charges in England should be abolished?

Over 170 questionnaires were received back. The overwhelming majority of respondents felt that prescription charges should be abolished, however it was recognised this might be costly,



so perhaps the charges could be reduced or means tested. There was a lot of support for the abolition of charges for people with long term conditions.

The full report has now been sent to the Department of Health Prescription Charges Review Panel, the British Medical Association, the Socialist Health Association and National Voices.

The full copy of the report is available through the LINK office, contact details over the page.

## What is the Warrington Local Involvement Network?

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) have been set up throughout England as a way of helping people to influence health and social care services.

The LINKs main job will be to:

- Find out what people want
- Investigate issues that people raise
- Brings groups and individuals

together to look at issues

- Use their powers to hold services to account

The LINK need to hear your views and experiences of health and social care, so tell us your concerns, what you think works well or not so well and what gaps in services there are, so the LINK can help improve services.

## Useful Contact Details for help with Prescription Charges

- Prescription Prepayment Certificate—phone 0845 850 0030 email <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts>
- Low Income Scheme—phone 0845 850 1166 for more information, a form is available at local dentists, opticians or GP surgeries
- To apply for medication exemption certificate contact your Doctor

For more information visit <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts>



**If you would like more information the work on Prescription Charges and the full report please contact the LINK office at the address below. If you would like to get involved in future LINK work or to become a member again please contact the LINK office.**

**Warrington LINK**  
**the GATEWAY, 89 Sankey Street, Warrington,**  
**WA1 1SR**  
**Telephone: 01925 246892/ 3**  
**Email: [warringtonlink@blackhealthagency.org.uk](mailto:warringtonlink@blackhealthagency.org.uk)**  
**[www.warringtonlink.org.uk](http://www.warringtonlink.org.uk)**