David Bowie helps New NHS Alliance start a social movement for wellness

On the 22nd of February in Central Birmingham we had a full house for the launch of our new social movement for wellness - called 'Active Alliance'.

We recognise that many of our members want to be more directly involved in influencing change around health inequalities at policy, planning as well as delivery on the front line.

At the meeting we shared our developing vision for the health sector and for the New NHS Alliance. We learned more about social movement theory using the lighthearted story of 'A Space Oddity' - why the mission to Mars did not succeed - and how it would have been better to create a social movement.

Active Alliance members shared the things that energised them and the gifts that they could share:

"I moved into the housing sector because I saw the direct connection between the home and positive health & wellbeing. I am energised by supporting people to take ownership of their own wellbeing and health through a
shared vision and by providing the tools/support to services."
- Active Alliance member

Attendees participated in a 'World Cafe' event to flesh out some ideas on how we develop and spread ideas about health creation:

Use the doctor’s surgery for toddler group or choir to teach ‘what makes us well’.
- World Cafe comment

A clear desire for regional Health Creation networks emerged from the discussion as well as a need for a strong communications strategy. Members can stay in touch with each other using our existing Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts (search for 'NHS Alliance').

Summary and next steps

- Communications
  - Facebook, LinkedIn, email etc
- Work up project ideas
  - Connect to National Executive
- Manifesto – April
- Web meeting: 18 May 17
- Next meeting: 15 June 17 (tbc)

Please help to spread the word ... ask 5 people to join

http://www.nhsalliance.org/becomeamember
New NHS Alliance Chair to join National Commission on Mental Health

New NHS Alliance chair Heather Henry has been invited to join a national commission on Mental Health. The Rt. Hon. Paul Burstow, former Minister of State for Care Services, is to chair the 7th University of Birmingham policy commission. The focus of the commission is mental health promotion and illness prevention across society.

Over the last 3 years Heather has been working with some of the most hard pressed families in the country. She regularly comes across unresolved mental health problems:

"One of the biggest issues I see is the strong relationship between the emotional wellbeing of fathers and that of their children. Fathers tell me that not having work and family breakdown are two major causes of anxiety, depression and agoraphobia. I have heard many accounts of attempted and actual suicide among men and the impact this has on children is tremendous."

All Party Parliamentary Group - Primary Care and Public Health - Inquiry into Managing Demand in Primary Care: the case for a National Strategy
The All Party Parliamentary Group on Primary Care and Public Health is inviting New NHS Alliance to submit written evidence for its inquiry into managing demand in primary care.

We invite members to tell us what they think about the following questions:

1) What needs to happen and who needs to be involved to help assist people in looking after their own (a) minor self-limiting illnesses and (b) long term conditions?

2) Is it necessary to commission self care and how can this be done effectively?

3) What training is necessary to support primary care staff in educating people to look after themselves and who is providing this training?

4) How can local health expertise such as pharmacy, health coaches, patient groups and charities, etc be incorporated into the system to help manage demand?

5) What else has to happen to improve joint working locally to engage people in their health and wellbeing and so reduce service demand?

6) What impact have Government policies such as the Five Year Forward View and GP Forward View had in managing demand and how can we move towards that much sought after whole-systems NHS?

Email us using the heading "APPG Primary Care" at debbie@life-logistics.co.uk by 27th March

**New NHS Alliance at the forefront of housing and health**

**Sam Haskell, Housing and Integration Policy Lead, Department of Health, talks in his blog about "Five reasons why you should care about housing and health"**

In this blog, Sam refers to a series of 3 reports, commissioned by the National Housing Federation which can help commissioners and system leaders to make better links between these important sectors.
The three reports cover:

1. **Health professionals’ attitudes** to evidence and the influence it has on decision making.
2. **Developing a business case** for health and how the housing sector can go about making it stronger.
3. **The economic case**

Some time ago, New NHS Alliance established a dedicated website on the subject of housing and health. It has now received over 127,000 hits. To find out more visit [http://www.housingforhealth.net/](http://www.housingforhealth.net/)

There is also a Quick Guide to Health and Housing produced by NHS England has recently produced, with key input from New NHS Alliance:


**Creating health through work**

In February New NHS Alliance hosted Creating Health Through Work meeting. It was kindly sponsored by APM and Groundwork and was attended by DH and PHE as well as people from the health, employability and the housing sector. This event has helped inform the **Improving Lives Green Paper**

A report from this event will be available in the next newsletter.
Press Statements

New NHS Alliance response to the National Audit Office report on health and social care integration - click here

Response to the 2017/18 GP contract settlement - click here

Views on the RCGP report on The State of child health - click here