

## E-bulletin May 7th 2009

**(1) Swine Flu Phase 4 April 29 (2) Swine Flu Phase 5 May 1st (3) International Women's Day (4) Computer Course (5) Young, living in Horsham - Friday evening**

Dear members,

- 1 Swine Flu – Sussex: As you may well be aware the World Health Organisation has stepped up the state of alert for pandemic flu to Phase 4. This means a strain of the virus has emerged which has shown some potential for human to human transmission. The clusters are small and highly localized and may not develop further. It is too early to tell whether this flu strain will develop into a pandemic, but it is of course wise for everyone to be ready for such a development. The NHS at both a local and national level has been preparing for pandemic flu for five years and is already working closely with the Health Protection Agency and a host of other partners to ensure they respond appropriately should the level of alert be increased further. They are also keeping primary care contractors fully up to date with the latest developments. Please find attached the press release issued on 29 April, 2009, on behalf of the primary care trusts in West Sussex, Brighton and Hove, and East Sussex, Downs and Weald, and Hastings and Rother. The government has announced that it will be delivering information leaflets to all households within days, but in the meantime there are regular updates being posted on the Health Protection Agency's website at [www.hpa.org.uk/](http://www.hpa.org.uk/) The primary care trust will endeavour to share additional information as the situation develops. Please forward this message on to anyone you believe would benefit.
- 2 Peter Hayward, Acting Director of Public Health – West Sussex PCT has written to say: "As you may well be aware the World Health Organisation has stepped up the state of alert for pandemic flu to Phase 5. This means a strain of the virus has emerged which has shown some potential for human to human transmission. We are seeing larger clusters of cases but human to human spread of the virus remains localised. However the risk of a pandemic is moving closer and we are therefore triggering the Sussex Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plan. At the time of writing, we have no confirmed cases in West Sussex, and we certainly don't know how infectious this strain of flu will turn out to be. The NHS at both a local and national level has been preparing for pandemic flu for five years and is already working closely with the Health Protection Agency and a host of other partners to ensure we respond appropriately should the situation change locally. As part of this we have set up a Swine Flu Coordination Centre at the Causeway, able to take calls and coordinate the different flu related work streams we have underway. We are also keeping primary care contractors fully up to date with the latest developments. A national public information campaign has also been launched this week to provide people with more information about swine. Adverts will appear in newspapers, on the radio and on TV offering advice about the virus flu and basic hygiene tips on how to protect themselves. In addition, information leaflets will be delivered to all households in days. We will endeavour to share additional information with you as the situation develops, but in the meantime if you require more information there are regular updates being posted on the Health Protection Agency's website at [www.hpa.org.uk/](http://www.hpa.org.uk/) Please forward this message on to anyone you believe would benefit.

- 3 Cleo Matthews, Senior Social Work Practitioner, Adult Services, Horsham Community Partnership Team, [West Sussex County Council](#) is part of a women's group who organises events to celebrate International Women's Day each year, they are currently in their 15th year. Their group is interested in finding other groups in West Sussex who would like to discuss linking in with their group to plan a range of events going on in the county for IWD 2010. For more information on their group please go to [www.aiwd.org.uk](http://www.aiwd.org.uk)
- 4 Com O'Malley, Learning Initiatives Coordinator, writes:  
The beginners' computer course which was due to start this term proved to be less popular than we had hoped so we have changed it to include more experienced computer users. The revised course will start on Tuesday 2 June from 1-3pm at Lavinia House (Age Concern) and run for 6 weeks. We would be grateful if you could promote the course (see attached poster) to any clients who might be interested. We have enlisted some students but need 8 people for the course to go ahead. Please phone Com O'Malley if you have any questions; contact details are: Com O'Malley, Learning Initiatives Coordinator, Com usually works Mondays to Thursdays, 07827 335241 / 01403 750166
- 5 Young, living in Horsham and nothing to do on a Friday evening? Please find a news item from Horsham District Council.

I do hope the above is of interest to yourself and your organisation –  
Janet

*JANET BROWN*

#### Attachments:

**Swine flu update**



**LI ICT Summer Term**



**Friday Evening**



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