

For Immediate Release

Tuesday December 2, 2008

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR PEOPLE IN OLDHAM

What do people want most from health services in Oldham?

This question will take the centre stage at a healthcare event on December 5.

People in Oldham are invited to come along the event, titled 'going the extra mile', to share their views on how healthcare in Oldham can become the very best, with the people who are best placed to put those views and ideas into practice.

The drop-in style event, which has been organised by Oldham Community Health Services (part of NHS Oldham), will also be an opportunity for people to meet front line staff, see the excellent work that they do and to ask questions.

Along with around 20 information stands, staffed by experts in each particular field, people will have the chance to take part in some 'hands-on' activities, such as lung age testing and blood pressure checks. There will also be stop-smoking advice and support on offer and the chance for those over the age of 65, or who have a long-term condition, such as asthma, to have a flu jab. During the event there will be two 'break out' discussion sessions on offer at 11am and 2pm. Here, people will have the opportunity to tell staff from OCHS what 'going the extra mile' means to them and what they would like to see from healthcare services in Oldham.

Janet Ellis, practice development co-ordinator for OCHS, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for both staff and people in Oldham. Staff are provided with an opportunity to showcase and explain their day-to-day work and their achievements and the public can find out what goes on 'behind the scenes', both on an informational level and from the personal experience of the staff. It is also an ideal opportunity to find out and act on what people in Oldham really want from healthcare services in Oldham, rather than what we think they want."

The areas of healthcare that people can find out about include immunisations and vaccinations, infection control, children's learning disabilities, family planning and sexual health district nursing and community matrons, dental, podiatry, diabetes, Parkinson's Disease and the Patient Advice and Liaison Service - along with many others.

The event will run from 10am until 4pm in the performance suite at Gallery Oldham, with light refreshments provided throughout the day.

Photocall

Event: You are invited to come along to a 'going the extra mile' healthcare event. Along with around 20 information stands covering a wide range of

healthcare, there will also be a range of 'hand-on' activities, such as blood pressure checks and two 'break-out' discussion sessions, where people can share their views on what they want from healthcare services in Oldham.

Date: Friday December 5

Time: 3pm

Location: The Performance Space, Gallery Oldham, Union Street Oldham.