

# WEST MIDLANDS QUALITY REVIEW SERVICE

## SHOWCASING THE JOURNEY OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LINK WORKING

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Wendy Pugh (Director of Operations and Nursing)  
Alison Geeson (Head of Nursing)  
Angela Murray (IPC Lead Nurse)

Telephone: 01384 365708 (Wendy Pugh)

[wendy.pugh@dwmh.nhs.uk](mailto:wendy.pugh@dwmh.nhs.uk)

Telephone: 01384 365043/365711 (Alison Geeson and Angela Murray)

Email: [alison.geeson@dwmh.nhs.uk](mailto:alison.geeson@dwmh.nhs.uk)  
[angela.murray@dwmh.nhs.uk](mailto:angela.murray@dwmh.nhs.uk)

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# INNOVATION – THE ROLE OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LINK WORKER

- We have moved from an ad hoc inconsistent approach to one of consistency (2009-2011)
- Formal launch of IPC Link Worker role in October 2009 – ‘launch it not leave it’
- All areas now have an IPC Link Worker – a champion – **68** of them
- A best practice steering group led a programme of work which gave the link workers the tools to get on with the job (a short life group became a long life group!)

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# INNOVATION – THE ROLE OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LINK WORKER

- **A local audit tool was developed and implemented from November 2009. September 2011 audit process review – refreshed approach being launched in January 2012**
- **Specific mental health link worker education and development forums take place four times a year**
- **A self assessment workbook identifying link worker training and development needs to support continuing professional development and educational model**

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# INNOVATION – THE ROLE OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LINK WORKER

- **Link worker resource folders in all areas**
- **Development of IPC web site (SharePoint)**
- **DWMHPT Recognising Success Partnership Award (September 2010)**
- **Annual Development Day/local Conference (January 2011) showcasing IPC link working – overwhelmingly positively evaluated**
- **DIPC reports to Trust Board inclusive of IPC Link Worker contribution**
- **International IPC week – Link Workers at the forefront**

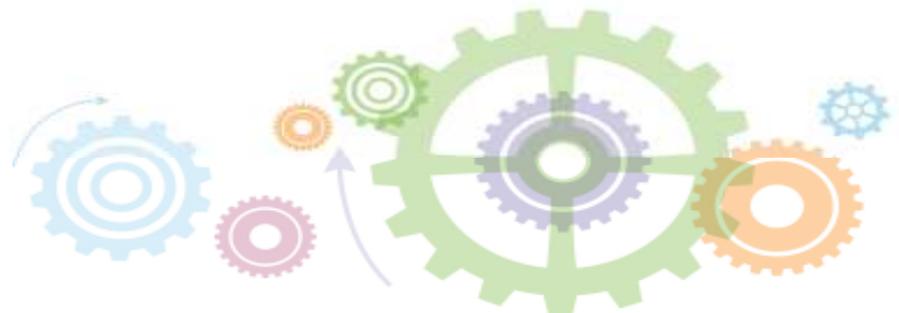
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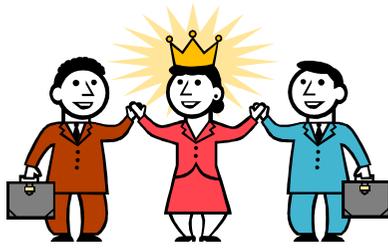


# INNOVATION – THE ROLE OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LINK WORKER

- **Bugs are mean – keep your hands clean local campaign profiling**  
*‘your Infection Prevention and Control Link Worker is.....’*
- **Planning for IPC Link Worker Development Day/Conference Spring 2012**
- **Continuous quality improvement – the journey continues**

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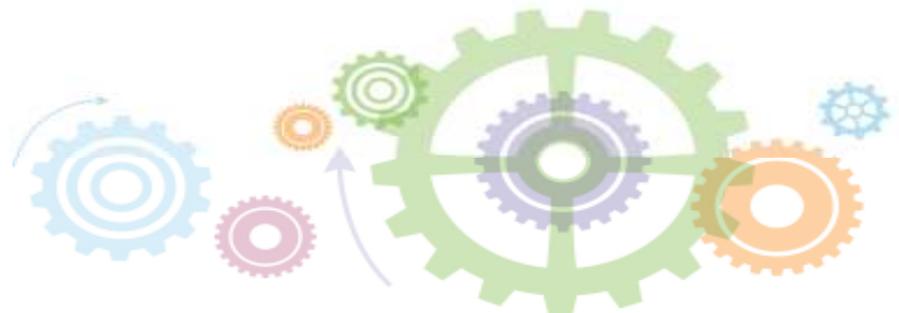




# SHOWCASING GOOD PRACTICE AREAS

- **Keeping the learning alive for IPC Link Workers – annual development day**
- **Reaching out to local children – Incy Wincy Spider event**
- **SharePoint - infection prevention and control information website**
- **Live link working in practice**
- **Partnership working across the Health Economy**

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# IPC LINK WORKING

## HOW HAVE WE SUSTAINED THE APPROACH?

- **A passionate and committed visible leadership approach**
- **A ward to Board approach and commitment**
- **A clear steer from the DIPC and Infection Control Committee**
- **Establishing a Best Practice Steering Group**
- **Local managers/Matrons/Senior Clinical Leads supporting Link Workers**
- **Creating essential infrastructure i.e. clear roles and responsibilities and capacity to do the job**
- **A partnership approach in-house i.e. Governance, Communications, Operations, Training Department**

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# IPC LINK WORKING

## HOW HAVE WE SUSTAINED THE APPROACH?

- **A Health Economy partnership approach**
- **A solid motivational educational programme for all IPC Link Workers**
- **Clear and achievable goals with strong leadership and monitoring of quality improvement**
- **Valuing the contribution of Link Workers**
- **Excellent communication strategy**
- **Ongoing learning and changing practice**

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# WHAT ARE THE KEY AREAS IN WHICH WE NEED TO DO BETTER?

## The ABCD Approach

- **Accelerate** the shared learning process across the whole system
- **Build** our profile as a centre of excellence for infection prevention and control across the health economy and beyond
- **Consistently** deliver excellent standards of compliance with the *'Health and Social Care Act 2008 – Code of Practice for health and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections'*.
- **Demonstrate** evidence of changing practice as a consequence of learning lessons from incident and audit processes.

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