

First Fraudline client win in 2006 for Cunningham Lindsey UK

In February 2006, Newark & Sherwood District Council joined Cunningham Lindsey UK's FraudLine Service, introduced by Zurich Municipal. To help spread the message of their fight against insurance claims fraud, the council is co-ordinating the delivery of Cunningham Lindsey's FraudLine leaflets to every member of their community with their council tax bills for 2006/7.

They are also planning a number of other publicity events for FraudLine throughout the year. A 2005 survey of subscribers to the FraudLine service showed that, on average, they had achieved a 25% drop in insurance claims compared to the previous year. As a proven deterrent, this is encouraging other local authorities to join the FraudLine scheme. Natalie Watts, Business

Development Manager for FraudLine, commented: "A number of other local authorities are currently considering the range of Anti-Fraud and Anti-Social Behaviour Services that we offer, but this is our first confirmed subscription for 2006.

We are obviously delighted." Councillor Tony Roberts, Leader of the Council said: "Insurance Fraud is a very real concern for the Council today.

The opportunity to work with Cunningham Lindsey on this project strongly supports our Risk Management Strategy and our aim to become an excellent performing council. We are very pleased to be joining FraudLine in 2006."

Historic ambulance purchased by the Government & Public Sector Journal

The *Government & Public Sector Journal* has purchased a rare Austin Wandsworth LCC ambulance for charity and exhibition work. The ambulance is the actual one used in the famous film "Carry On Matron" in the early 1970's, well known for crashing through the front doors of the maternity hospital. It was purchased from Mr David Nash of Hookwood, Reigate, Surrey, who had lovingly restored it to first class condition. The only other surviving example of this once common LCC ambulance is in the London Ambulance museum. Granada Television have used it in a film to be broadcast this year about the infamous 'Moors Murders'. The ambulance was built in 1958 and will bring back memories for some of our older ambulance service readers.



The Department of Health has published a booklet by professional leaders of top tips, practical ideas and case studies which GPs, practice staff, allied health professionals and other primary care staff can use to help them get involved in practice - based commissioning.

The booklet, Practice-based commissioning: early wins and top tips, contains detailed ideas for nine clinical areas which are easy to implement, which can make a rapid difference to patients, and which benefit the local health economy as whole.

These clinical areas are: COPD; dermatology, heart failure, long-term conditions, mental health, orthopaedics, and urology. Top tips in the booklet include:

- Set up monthly internal meetings between clinicians and other practice staff to discuss and review referral activity, as well as A and E attendances and emergency admissions;
- Set up a skills directory of individual clinicians and other health professionals within practices to facilitate primary care to primary care referrals;
- Create self-management plans for the most common long-term conditions ñ it is increasingly accepted that this can improve clinical outcomes and help to manage demand.

By 2006, all PCTs will have arrangements in place to allow GPs to hold an indicative budget for the treatment of their patients under practice-based commissioning. Lord Warner said: "Last month

White Paper set out a new direction for community services, with more flexible, convenient and integrated services for patients. Practice-based commissioning has a crucial role in delivering more streamlined and effective services for patients. I asked professional experts to come up with their top tips and practical ideas for making

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practice -based commissioning work for patients. This booklet is the result." It shows how GPs and other primary care professionals can, in short, order and reshape services for the benefit of patients."

National Director for Primary Care, David Colin-Thome, said: " GPs and other primary care professionals are in a prime position to redesign services that best meet patients' needs and deliver what local people want. This is an exciting time for us in primary care. GPs and other practice staff have a real opportunity to influence and direct the way that patient care is delivered in the community."

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