

CHIME NETWORK

CHIME Network for NHS Independent Management Consultants Newsletter

Good day each.

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1. SPAM we're not...

I have been trying to arrange a contract so I can send out a more professional newsletter – you know the type of thing that comes through and looks like a mini web site in its own right? Unfortunately I have fallen foul of the SPAM police!

Those of you who have received previous missive will know that I have been a bit of a magpie when it came to collecting email addresses over the years. Setting up this network was something I have long intended and felt no guilt as I purloined suitable email addresses from any source including websites and shared emails.

The companies I have contacted re setting up an email newsletter want assurance that all of the Network's contacts have opted in.

Seems reasonable.

There are currently 446 contacts on the register and I don't want 446 people telling me they are happy to confirm opt in. So I am going to provide a once-in-a-life-time opportunity to tell me if you do not wish to receive newsletters from the Network.

If you stay on the list I can promise you that your email address will not be circulated to any other source in any shape way form or fashion.

But if you do not tell me you wish to be removed from the list – you will hear from the Network again! This is not an opportunity to opt-in – you will have to opt-out!

2. Independent Consultant Availability

One of the things that people thought would be useful is a space to advertise availability. One of the people in the Network is currently free and open to offers and has provided the following information;

Commercially minded flexible interim finance professional looking for short term project finance or commissioning role within the M25 area.

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Recent projects have included finance lead for procurement of GP lead Health centre within a Polyclinic; delivery of c£500k recurrent premises income by reviewing costs, occupancies and tenancy arrangements, and introducing future proofed management systems; preparation of Programme Budgeting return for a PCT; PCT Lead for Specialised Commissioning and Acute contracts; Finance and Commissioning lead for Urgent Care Service project.

I have seen the CV and can advise that she has considerable project, finance and commissioning expertise in an independent contractor capacity.

For further details drop a line to info@chimen.org

If anyone wants to advertise their availability please contact the same email address and we will include details on the next email newsletter.

3. Meetings

There is an update on the happenings of the inaugural meeting of the Network on the web site at <http://www.chimen.org/meetings.html>

Those in attendance on the day were extremely positive about the Network and what it could do to enhance the prospects of Interims/Independent management Consultants who operate within the healthcare sector.

I would like to give special thanks to Angela Nisbet of Care by Design who gave an excellent talk on Designing for Reliability in Healthcare ‘Designing Healthcare around the Human Factor’. Angela provided a very lively presentation which engaged the audience interactively with anecdotes on how she has enabled NHS employees to identify some of the shortcomings and motivational factors in delivering health care improvements.

The presentation can be found at <http://www.carebydesign.org/resources/>

Angela also presented a prototype of an organisational assessment tool and received positive feedback from the group. Several members agreed to further consider the tool with a view to further development. Again it was felt that the Network could usefully introduce people to each other to develop such ideas.

Contractor mortgages

Are you looking for a mortgage with no broker fees guaranteed? Gary Morris can help.

Thanks to Gary who gave an interesting insight at the meeting into the problems of obtaining mortgages for contractors in a very changed world. Gary, who is a qualified accountant, operates as an independent consultant within the NHS. He also runs a mortgage advisory business and has considerable experience in the field.

Gary gave some useful tips regarding the advantages of self certification versus the use of three years accounts. A very interesting insight by someone who clearly knows his subject.

Gary has offered to guarantee no broker fees to CHIME Network members, most IFA's are looking to charge fees now a trend that will continue.

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His contact details are

Finance Associates
Tempo House
15 Falcon Road
Battersea
London SW11 2BJ
T: 0207 223 7662
M: 07955 250543
E: gary250261@aol.com

Future meetings

One of the things that became apparent when organising the event was how many people are London averse (and some might say who can blame them!). The reason it was arranged there was that a lot of people are based in the capital and we wanted a very attractive venue – hence the Kings Fund.

However, we want to meet as many people who are in the market as possible. To this end we are arranging a road show in January to the following wonderful cities;

- Birmingham
- Leeds
- Manchester
- Bristol
- London

If you feel that none of the above are close enough to you, and you think there are enough people in the market in your area, I would be very pleased to hear suggestions for additional locations

We will be meeting in the mid-week at venues to be arranged. If anyone has any knowledge of good place to meet please can you drop me a line. There will be a nominal charge for the events – not because we want to make money from you, but because it is felt that paying a fee is likely to encourage commitment to turning up on the evenings as well as delivering an expectation of value.

More details will follow as dates and venues and speakers etc are finalised.

4. HFMA December Conference Exhibition Stand.

The Network has booked a stand at the 3 day HFMA conference on 9-11 December at the Hilton Metropole Hotel if you are there come and visit us at Stand C14 in the main hall.

The CHIME Network advert placed in the HSJ for the last six weeks proved to be something of a slow burner. It was targeted at raising awareness of the Network within the NHS Independent Consultant/ Interim Management community – and in this it provided some success. We have built up a significant contact list of people whose services we would like to promote – 446 at the last count.

The stand at the HFMA conference is part of the network's foray into advertising itself to the movers and shakers within the NHS.

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The HFMA conference is the prime annual conference for Healthcare Financial Managers and should provide an excellent market place from which to start.

The Network will be providing a range of promotional freebies to those in attendance including branded interactive PbR and Acute Services Contract Quizzes. These will be provided on disk and are designed for managers to take away to allow their colleagues to test themselves on the vagaries of the PbR and Acute Services Contract Guidance. The quizzes have gone down well where they have been shown so we have high hopes for the products in promoting the Network.

The Network has taken out a half page advert in the November HFMA magazine which is circulate to all Senior Finance Managers within the NHS - so feel free to ask any such colleagues if they have read the advert.

There are plans to attend similar events in the future that are organised by IHM – so if you are a member of that institute expect to see us somewhere soon.

5. Promotional products

We have coasters, rulers, fridge magnets and pens all branded up with CHIME Network logo. We need help in getting them to the right people in the NHS. If you would like to receive some to leave around the offices of the great and good please drop a line to info@chimen.org and we'll send you some.

6. Contributions to the newsletter

The plan is to send out a newsletter every month from here on. The newsletter is serve a dual purpose one to enable more effective networking of Independent Consultants/Interims within the NHS and two to raise awareness within the NHS that such people can be organised.

With his in mind if you feel the slightest temptation to circulate this newsletter – don't fight it! Please pass on to anyone you see fit.

Similarly, if you would like to contribute an article, paragraph or just a few words to a future edition then please don't be a stranger.

In the meanwhile if you have any suggestions in how to improve the newsletter or the general workings of the Network please contact me

Kevin Pritchard

The CHIME Network

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