Update on Courses
The New Year will be a busy time for diabetes centre staff, with three courses running. The Primary Care Course runs on Tuesday afternoons for 5 weeks, starting on 10th January. This course is a basic introduction to all aspects of diabetes. Application forms will have been sent out when you receive this. On 21st February we have the insulin course, a one day course introducing insulin therapy and its use in type 2 diabetes. We also have diabetes Foot Assessment training for 2 hours on 12th January, 3rd February and 9th February. This course is for anyone involved in Diabetes Annual Review who wants to carry out foot assessment. Application for the insulin course and foot training have been sent to all practice managers. If you need further forms, they are available at www.diabetes-resources.org.uk

Group Education Sessions
The diabetes lay educators, Pergul and Evrim, are holding several diabetes education sessions over the next few months. The following are dates for the sessions that are pre-arranged. We are also keen to have referrals for all patients from all ethnic groups. We are working with the advocacy service and out-patients to gain referrals too.
Bengali Group: 17th January 2006
Turkish Group: 24th January 2006
Vietnamese Group: 31st January 2006
Somali Group: 7th February 2006
Punjabi Group: 28th February 2006

Diabetes Specialist Nurse / Facilitators
The team of facilitators are available to: Assist with setting up clinics, work with complex patients, and give advice in primary care. The facilitators are: North Hackney: Anna-Marie Jesson and Charlotte Jenkins South Hackney: Leanne Jenkins and Bridget Parkinson (on maternity leave). For urgent advice we are available via mobile phone: 07768 102130

Walking Groups
The Diabetes Lay Educators working with the diabetes centre team are planning walking groups from various locations in Hackney. These groups will be free for participants. The January newsletter will have more details of dates and starting points for the walks. We will also send flyers out to all surgeries. Please do encourage all your patients to attend. If you are arranging your own groups, do let us know and we will make patients attending the diabetes centre aware.

Retinal Screening
Good News! The porta-cabin for the expansion of Retinal Screening arrives before Christmas. The expansion in the service will start after staff training and induction, early in the New Year. All referrals that have been sent will be seen, but not everyone can be seen at once. Please be patient whilst we set up this expansion in service, which will cover the whole diabetes population of Hackney.

www
The diabetes centre now has information at two web-sites. The web-site for the community is www.diabetes-resources.org.uk. For information and contact details for hospital based services, please look at the Homerton web-site, under “Our clinical services”: www.homerton.nhs.uk