

EAST SUSSEX LINK

The County's Local Involvement Network in Health and Social Care

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2008 2.00 – 4.30 SEAFORD BAPTIST CHURCH SEAFORD

Present:

Interim Core Group:

Janet Colvert (Chair), Geoff Thomas (Vice Chair), Tony Moore, Margaret Stanton

Co-opted LINK Members:

David Bold, Maureen Lawrence, Sue Weiner, Laurence Keeley,

In Attendance:

Sara Geater (East Sussex Downs & Weald and Hastings & Rother PCT), Paul Trevethick (East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT) Len Ashby (Uckfield Housebound Club), Duncan Frewen (Chiropractic Homeopathy), Chrissie Jenner (Sussex Deaf Association), David Lawrence, Liz Lash (Care for the Carers), Ivy Elsey (East Sussex Seniors' Association), Victoria Allen (Eastbourne Herald), Peter Todd (Friends of Newick Health Centre), Renee Jasper (Independent Providers Forum); Nick Tapp (Deputy CEO, East Sussex Disability Association), Elizabeth Mackie (LINK Manager), Val Shoebridge – *notes* (LINK Development Worker), Jane Hay (LINK Administrator)

Apologies:

Ray Barrett, Brian Rockell, Maurice Langham, Reg McLaughlin, Judith Clabby, Ian Watling, Sue Hough, Cllr Tidy, Louise Hutchinson, John Baker, Margaret Williams, Jan Cutting, Gillian Mauger, Felicity Hamilton, David Pavitt, Deborah May, Walter James, Fiona Storrs, Amanda Steer, June Jarrett, Fred Cullen, Dave Rogers, Molly Northern, Liz Burchett, Eileen Mallaber.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Janet welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the role of the Interim Core Group. The Group was a self nominated group set up as a temporary measure and a proper process for election would be put in place in September.

2. Draft Minutes of meeting 29th April

The last meeting had been arranged for the LINK 'wider' group and Janet gave a brief summary of the minutes and these were then agreed as a true record. The results of the feed back on the workshops were in the process of being collated by Geoff.

3. Matters arising and not elsewhere on the Agenda

No matters arising were recorded.

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

5. Report on the progress of East Sussex LINK

Janet gave a PowerPoint presentation on the role of LINKs and how to get involved and included an update on the progress of the East Sussex LINK. Copies of the presentation are available on request at info@thecountylink.net.

A full LINK team have now been appointed and currently in post are Elizabeth Mackie - LINK Manager, Jane Hay - Administrator, Val Shoebridge – Development Worker for Lewes and Wealden. Jan Cutting – Development Worker for Hastings and Rother will be in post end of June.

6. Update on development of East Sussex LINK by Host

Nick gave a brief overview of the role of the Host and an update on the development of the LINK.

- East Sussex Disability Association (ESDA) was appointed as Host for the LINK in March 2008. Since April three interim members of staff have been employed on a temporary basis and offices have been fully equipped and functional.
- From 1st April a web site www.thecountylink.net has been accessible and is in the process of being redeveloped. Two newsletters have already been published and a third is in the process of being completed.
- Regular meetings of LINK Liaison Group have taken place to monitor progress with representation from East Sussex County Council - Adult Social Care and Chief Executive Department, Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, South East Coast Ambulance Services, East Sussex Downs & Weald and Hastings & Rother PC and Strategic Health Authority.
- The Interim Core Group is in the process of implementing and developing Policies and Procedures, seeking guidance and advice from the National Centre for Involvement.
- There is currently a Database of over eighty LINK participants, all of whom are regularly kept updated and informed of the LINK progress.

Questions to Janet and Nick

Q Do we know names of people who will represent Social Care Group?

A Janet confirmed that she has already attended an Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting and they are keen to have representation at their meetings and to work jointly with the LINK. A meeting has been arranged to decide how best to work with them.

Q In relation to the Older Peoples' Forum – how can health and social care group unite and how will the LINK be representing the 'rural areas'?

A Janet confirmed that a member of the Interim Core Group is already attending the Older Peoples' Forum. Nick commented that the Interim Core Group is not currently represented by all areas but the remit will include representation by rural areas and this will be addressed during the nomination process in September. The LINK was not just about groups and individuals attending meetings but would include networking and different ways of representation.

Q Have we received any reports from neighbouring LINKs and will we be working together?

A Not all neighbouring LINKs are set up yet but East Sussex LINK is already thinking about mechanisms to work together.

7. Presentation by Paul Trevethick on Primary Care Services

Paul introduced himself as GP Practice Services Manager for East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT and gave a brief overview on Primary Care Services, in particular commissioning and structures.

- East Sussex Downs & Weald and Hastings & Rother PCTs were now reconfigured PCTs working under a single management team.
- Primary Care functions include all independent contractors; optometrists; pharmacists; dentists and GPs.
- Quality Outcome Framework (QOF) – quality of patient notes, monitoring and delegating services and looking at pathway changes on a wider basis.
- GP practices divided into eight clusters which are geographically split – one in Seaford, Havens, Lewes, High Weald and Hailsham and three in Eastbourne.
- Governance is led by Practice Based Commissioning Committee Board (Chaired by Non-Executive Director). There is currently no lay member, but this could be something the LINK could be involved with. PBC Board is working closely with Enhanced Services Group. There are three types of enhanced services – 'Designated', which broadly covers policy areas; 'National', covering a range of expected services, i.e. flu vaccinations and 'Local', covering a wide range of services, i.e. diabetes/minor procedures/sexual health. The budget for these is £4.3 million for the core and an additional £1.5 million for extras. PBC aims to devolve budgets to practices to influence spend and agree over what is actively managed.

8. There then followed a question and answer session

Q Are the same services available to a number of surgeries?

A Some practices work closely with each other, sharing services, which mean they can pool some budgets together.

Q Will LINK be involved in commissioning decisions?

A The PCT appreciates guidance from LINKs on particular issues and areas of concern.

Geoff raised his concerns about patient involvement and failure to consult the public on decisions to remove services and would like to see more patient involvement. He questioned the openness and transparency of processes and asked for an update in a years' time to see if the process had been improved.

Paul agreed the process needed more patient participation, but assured changes were being made and the Government was introducing new rules to demonstrate transparency. GPs are now involved in enhanced services to establish clear route.

Sara also commented that her role as Public Involvement Manager was to make sure mechanisms are in place to get the public voice. Quarterly reports have to be submitted to HOSC on how the PCT is improving its service and the impact on patients. The PCT are responsible for making the LINK aware of any future proposals.

Q How does a patient know its practice is part of the system and offers enhanced services?

A Enhanced support is ongoing care but each practice should advertise which services they provide.

Janet thanked Paul for his time and informative presentation.

9. AOB

- (i) Evaluation Forms - these were distributed to all present and Janet asked if they could be completed and returned, as information received would assist in monitoring the format of future meetings.
- (ii) Expenses Policy – Policies and procedures were still being looked at by the Interim Core Group and it was hoped these would be finalised at the next meeting.

10. Date and time of next meeting

To be confirmed.