
Meeting	Health and Well-Being Board
Date	26 July 2012
Subject	Local Involvement Network (LINK) Annual Report
Report of	Community Barnet (host organisation for Barnet LINK)
Summary of item and decision being sought	In advance of presenting the LINK Annual Report, the Board will be provided with a verbal update on the LINKs progress over the last year. Local Involvement Networks provide the opportunity for local people to have their say and hold local services to account.

Officer Contributors	Head of Engagement and LINK Manager,. Community Barnet
Reason for Report	The LINK is a partner on the Health and Well Being Board. It is essential that the Board is aware of how the LINK's work can support its objectives.
Partnership flexibility being exercised	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Contact for further information	Yessica Alvarez, Head of Engagement and Barnet LINK 020 8364 8400

RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That the Board note the verbal update from Barnet LINK.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND WHERE HELD

2.1 Health and Well-Being Board – 17 November 2012 – Agenda Item 9

3. LINK AND IMPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP-WIDE GOALS (SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY; HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY; COMMISSIONING STRATEGIES)

3.1 The LINK (and from 2012, HealthWatch) is the principal mechanism for co-ordinating the involvement of service users and the public in having their say and influencing the development and delivery of the Board's strategic priorities.

4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The requirement for the LINK host to recruit and involve the full range of Barnet's diverse communities was written into the current specification, and therefore forms a part of contract monitoring.

4.2 10 per cent of the marks in the first stage evaluation of companies that expressed an interest in the original contract were allocated according to equalities considerations.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 None in the context of this update..

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Sections 221-229 in Part 14 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 make provision for "local involvement networks" commonly referred to as "LINKs". Section 221 imposes a duty on local authorities to make contractual arrangements for the involvement of people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of health and social services. Section 222 contains rules about the arrangements that will be made by the local authority for the purposes of ensuring that there is a means to carry out the activities specified in the Act. The local authority is required to enter into contractual arrangements with another person. That person (referred to as the "host", although not called that in the Act) must not be a local authority, a National Health Service trust, an NHS foundation trust, a Primary Care Trust or a Strategic Health Authority i.e. an independent organisation. In addition, the arrangements must ensure that the host cannot also be a local involvement network (as defined in subsection (2)). In other words, these provisions envisage a chain of three different people: local authority – host – local involvement network.

7. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS- FINANCE, STAFFING, IT ETC

7.1 LINK hosting services are provided by Community Barnet under a contract with the Council.

8. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH USERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 8.1 The LINK is the umbrella body that brings together all individuals and community organisations with an interest in the provision of health and care services. They are represented on the Health and Well Being Board.

9. ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT WITH PROVIDERS

- 9.1 None specifically arising from this report but providers have been the subject of reports and investigations by the LINK.

10. DETAILS

- 10.1 Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) for Health and Social Care are a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Public Health Act 2007. They are networks of local people who are able to influence local health and care services, including having limited powers of inspection.
- 10.2 The legislation sets out a tripartite relationship between local authorities, who received a notional sum from the Department of Health through Area Based Grant to tender for a host organisation. The host recruits to and establishes a local LINK, and administers and support their work.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None

Legal: HP

Finance: MC