
Meeting	Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	10 September 2012
Subject	Barnet Local Involvement Network (LINK)
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary	The Committee 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	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Committee
Enclosures	None
Contact for Further Information:	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, 020 8359 2014 andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the verbal update from Barnet LINK.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 July 2012, Quality in Residential Care Homes for Older Adults – the Committee requested that a report be presented to the next meeting on Barnet LINK, particularly the number of visits undertaken and their findings.
- 2.2 Health and Well Being Board, 26 July 2012, Local Involvement Network Annual Report – the Board received a verbal update on the work of Barnet LINK in advance of the 2011/12 Annual Report being presented to the Board.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan 2012/13 includes the strategic objective ‘Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults’. The work of Barnet LINK provides an opportunity for local people to have their say and hold local services to account.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this update.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 In addition to the terms of reference of the committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the committee is to perform the overview and scrutiny role in relation to:
- The Council’s leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
 - The fulfilment of the Council’s duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 LINK hosting services are provided by Community Barnet under a contract with the Council. The contract value is £95,000 per annum and expires on 31 March 2013.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 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.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 The scope of Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution
- 8.2 The terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution). The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its terms of reference the following responsibilities:
- To receive reports from Barnet’s Local Involvement Network (or its successor body) on social care services.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its terms of reference responsibility for receiving reports from Barnet’s LINK (or its successor body) on social care services. Representatives from Barnet LINK have been invited to the meeting to provide the Committee with an update on their work, particularly the number of visits undertaken and their findings

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	MC/JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	LC