
Meeting	Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	12 December 2012
Subject	Barnet Local Involvement Network (LINK) Annual Report 2011/12
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary	<p>In accordance with the Committee's terms of reference, Members are requested to consider the Barnet LINK Annual Report for 2011/12. Representatives from the LINK have been invited to provide a verbal update on the LINKs' progress over the last year.</p>
Officer Contributors	Anita Vukomanovic, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Status	Public
Wards Affected	All
Exemption from call-in	N/A
Enclosures	Appendix A – Barnet LINK Annual Report 2011/12 Appendix B – Barnet LINK Enter and View Reports
Contact for Further Information	Anita Vukomanovic, Overview and Scrutiny Officer 020 8359 7034 anita.vukomanovic@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee considers the Barnet LINK Annual Report 2011/12 and make appropriate comments and/or recommendations to the 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 2011/12 – 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.
- 2.3 Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10 September 2012 – the Committee received a verbal update on the progress of Barnet LINK over the last year.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2012/13 Corporate Plan are: –
- Better services with less money
 - Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities
 - A successful London suburb
- 3.3 The Corporate Plan 2012/13 includes the strategic objective 'Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults'. To achieve this objective, the council will seek to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable adults who use our social care services, and work with our local partner organisations (NHS, police, social care providers) to set essential standards and monitor compliance. The work of Barnet LINK supports the achievement of this objective by providing an opportunity for local people to have their say and hold local services to account.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 There are 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.
- The Council is required to give due regard to its public sector equality duties as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and as public bodies, Health partners are also subject to equalities legislation; consideration of equalities issues should therefore form part of their reports.

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. This will be contained within existing Chief Executive budgets.

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.
- 7.2 Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, all Local Involvement Networks will be replaced with a new body called local HealthWatch. Local HealthWatch organisations will replace LINKs from April 2013.

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 scrutinise the Council and its partners in the discharge of statutory duties in relation to safeguarding”

“To receive reports from Barnet 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 (enter and view visits).
- 9.2 The legislation sets out a tripartite relationship between local authorities (who receive a notional sum from the Department of Health through Area Based Grant to tender for a host organisation), the host organisation (CommUNITY Barnet) and the Local LINK. The host recruits to and establishes a local LINK, and administers and supports 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. The Committee are requested to consider the Barnet LINK Annual Report 2011/12 (**Appendix A**) and make appropriate comments and/or recommendations. The Committee are also requested to consider the Enter and View visits undertaken from January 2012 (**Appendix B**).
- 9.4 Representatives from Barnet LINK have been invited to the meeting to present the Committee with their annual report and to provide a verbal update to the Committee on their work since the publication of the report.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance (Officer’s initials)	JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer’s initials)	LC