

**Gloucestershire Local Involvement Network (LINK)
LINK Stewardship Board Meeting
Wednesday 20th July 2011 10.00am to 12.00noon**

Attendees

Barbara Marshall Chair	Bren McInerney Vice Chair	Jenny Hincks
Ray Storey	Judy Gazzard	Peter Mannion
Albert Weager	Christine Donald	Val Dyer
Judi Brown	Robin Agascar	David Hearn
Barbara Piranty GRCC	Pamela Dewick GRCC	

1	Welcome and Apologies Barbara welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.	
2	Declaration of Interest There were no Declarations of Interest	
3	Notes of meeting held on 15th June 2011 It was agreed the notes were an accurate record of the meeting	
4	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Services Quality Account The comment to the Care Services Quality Account has been completed and acknowledged. There was a discussion about whether the Quality Account is used as a tick box exercise for the Dept of Health • Registration and Monitoring Forms The Governance group will meet to discuss issues arising from the database review • Care Quality Commission Inspection Although the Care Quality Commission recently visited Cheltenham General Hospital, the report has been delayed. It is understood the inspection revealed similar issues to those found in Gloucester Royal Hospital in March • External Evaluation The survey has been circulated to LINK members by e-mail • Gloucester County Council Advocacy Strategy Gloucestershire LINK has responded to the consultation 	Pamela to arrange

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Podiatry Report Peter M had written to Chris Boden, Head of MSKCAT & Gloucestershire Podiatry Services as there were some concerns raised by the task group report that had not been resolved. It is anticipated that the final response will be received shortly and brought to the LSB. Concerns were expressed about the continuing relationship between LINK/Local HealthWatch and the Podiatry Service after it is transferred to the Care Services Community Interest Company later this year. These concerns will be raised at the next Partners meeting with the commissioners 	Barbara M
5	Chairs Report The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional LINKs meeting in Manchester was interesting, although not a lot of new information was learned. The suggestion of involving LINK members as part of Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections received a strong negative response. It is also clear that there is inconsistency amongst CQC's Regional Compliance managers in their understanding of what LINK and its role is, as well as their relationships with their respective LINK Sally Pearson will be meeting with LINK to discuss the Quality Account for 2011/12 starting in January. She asked for any Gloucestershire LINK reports to be sent directly to Dr Frank Harsent, who will ensure that a member of the Executive Team provides the response 	
6	Host Report Finance Barbara Pi reported back on the budget saying that the picture was normal for this time of year with spend hovering just under the budget figure. This will undoubtedly increase as LINK moves into the 4th phase of public events in the autumn when costs will increase with venue hire and associated costs. Database Barbara reported that work was underway in terms of the database review. Letters would be sent out shortly to all members asking them to review their information and return forms to host for input into the new database in line with Data Protection. Website The development of the LINK website is ongoing and taking into account the constant changes, in order to ensure it is 'fit for purpose' when LINK becomes Local HealthWatch	

7	<p>Communications and Community Engagement (CCE) Update</p> <p>The report was circulated prior to the meeting. There have been a number of requests for LINK to give talks and have stands at various events. However, it has not been possible to meet all of them due to lack of sufficient capacity. LINK had a stand at all the recent Carers week events, collecting a number of comments</p> <p>The CCE group are discussing newsletters and have looked at newsletters from other LINKs. They are considering an e-bulletin instead of hard copies due to design and print costs and the constraints of this year's budget.</p> <p>443 comments were collected from members of the public in the first quarter, which almost equalled the amount collected over the whole of last year. This was due to the large number of comments collected at LINK stands in Cheltenham and Gloucester's shopping arcades.</p> <p>The Gloucestershire LINK Revised Communications Strategy was presented to the LSB for agreement. It was suggested the strategy should include a review date 'no later than 31st March 2012'</p>	
8	<p>Health and Social Care Bill Pathfinder Proposal</p> <p>It is not yet known if the Pathfinder proposal has been successful. Local Authorities will be notified by the end of the month. The basis of the proposal is to work with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to develop clear communication pathways, which will enable the Local Healthwatch representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a strong 'collective voice'. Fiona Jones, Lead for the Local Authority and Bren McInerney Vice Chair gave a presentation at the recent VCS Assembly Board meeting about the pathfinder proposal. A sub group of the VCS Assembly Board is meeting shortly.</p> <p>LINK HealthWatch Transition group</p> <p>The group has had its first meeting. The members agreed that meetings will be held monthly on the first Wednesday. The first meeting was to bring members up to speed with the information available. It was agreed that Fiona Jones will be attending all future meetings. The group consists of six LSB members and six other LINK members. Double that number of members applied (on a first come first served basis) who will also receive copies of the meeting notes and papers.</p>	

	<p>Local HealthWatch</p> <p>There is a regional LINKs meeting next week, which Bren and BarbaraPi will be attending, together with the Contract Manager from the Local Authority. Fiona Jones has sent a list of questions, asking for clarification on a number of points. She also asked the same questions from the Dept of Health but has not had any answers yet. Members had concerns that there was no clear information about the proposed structure of Local HealthWatch from the Department of Health other than it will be a corporate body. BarbaraM thinks that more information may be available for the August LSB meeting. The Future Forum document did not really suggest any changes to the HealthWatch England and Local Healthwatch proposals.</p> <p>The Government Response to the Future Forum</p> <p>The main points in the Government response to the recent “listening exercise” were discussed. Barbara M agreed to provide a short written update for the next LSB meeting. The Health and Social Care Bill is now being rediscussed in Committee in the light of the Government response and a large number of amendments are being made prior to the Report stage and its passage through the House of Lords</p>	Barbara
9	<p>Draft Report from Fibromyalgia Focus Group</p> <p>Judi Brown, Lead for the Focus Group commented that she had endeavoured to keep the report concise. She said that both she and Pamela had found the meeting with members of the Fibromyalgia group to be quite an emotional experience. Judi suggested that the recommendations need to be looked at and adjusted before the report is distributed to the various Commissioners and Providers. The board agreed with the format of the report and felt it highlighted the real suffering that Fibromyalgia patients experience, and their inability to get specialist help and support. Some patients are being referred to specialists in Bath or Dudley, but many cannot get referrals, and Gloucestershire PCT does not recognising Fibromyalgia as an illness. There was a discussion about whether the patient stories 3 and 4 were too long and would not be read.</p> <p>The LSB suggested that the formatting of the conclusions should be adjusted to make more impact. BarbaraM suggested some amendments to the recommendations. The members agreed that, once the suggested changes and adjustments are completed and approved by Judi, the report could be sent to the relevant commissioners and providers.</p>	

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Reports from Members

Christine Donald

The Local Implementation Network has not measured up to expectation and has been affected by the changes within the County Council.

Richard Townsend

The report was presented to Partners at the recent meeting. We have not heard any follow-up to the meeting last Thursday.

BarbaraM

LINK has sent in a response to the Blue Badge Consultation with several Village Agents contributing to it also. One comment was that the production of a passport photograph, costing the applicant £5, will be a wasted expense if the application is then refused.

Albert

The LINKs Joint Working Group (JWG) met recently. The speaker was Dave Coates (Great Western Ambulance Services) who talked about the Stroke Care pathway and Cardiac Care pathway.

Bren

The last scheduled meeting for Putting People First was cancelled. The members are currently looking at the Customer Journey Plan, and will decide whether the group will meet again.

The Gloucestershire County Dementia Board has requested that the LINK endorse a recommendation by the) Alliance/NHS Institute for Innovate and Improvement that “all people with Dementia who are receiving anti psychotic drugs will have undergone a clinical review to ensure that their care is compliant with current best practice guidelines, that alternatives to prescription have been considered, and a shared decision has been agreed regarding their future.”

Following a discussion, it was agreed that although this was not a matter for LINK, it might be something for Local HealthWatch.

The Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Task Group are currently working on the Draft Report which will probably be ready for the September LSB meeting.

The Dept of Health ‘Consultation on preventing suicide in England’ (Gateway

	<p>reference 15829 was published on the 19th July. The Self Harm group, along with the wider membership could respond to the consultation, which closes on 11th October 2011. Two Board members expressed an interest in being involved with the consultation.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council has asked for LINK Representation on the Core Carers Reference Group. Two members expressed an interest, depending on the dates of the meetings. BarbaraM suggested that they could share it depending on their availability. • The October LSB meeting clashes the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Group meeting so it was agreed to hold the LSB meeting in the afternoon (October 19th at 2pm) • Ian Tate from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT) Buildings gave a presentation at the recent Sustainability meeting at Gloucester Royal Hospital, which two LSB members attended. He talked about the buildings on sites at Cheltenham, Gloucester, Sandford and College Lawn. 20% of the buildings on those sites were built in the 40s and 40% even earlier. The Trust is considering fitting solar panels on the building roofs. They briefly mentioned the women’s centre, particularly the difficulties with the temperature inside the building. <p>Visual Impairment Task Group It is expected that the task group draft report will be available soon.</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Date of next meeting Wednesday 17th August 2011 5.00pm to 7.00pm</p>	