
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

3rd March 2010

Report of the Interim Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Update on Recommendations arising from the LINKs¹ report on Neurological Services and an Update on LINKs Report Writing Protocol

Summary

1. This report presents Members with a response from LINKs regarding queries in relation to the recommendations arising from their report on Neurological Services. It also presents a copy of the LINKs report writing protocol for information.

Background

Neurological Services Recommendation

2. At a meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 23rd September 2009 Members received a report from LINKs on Neurological Services. This reported back on a Public Consultation and Awareness Event they had held. The report contained the following recommendation for the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

‘York LINK recommends to City of York Council Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee that they monitor regular reports on how many members of staff have undergone the different types of training’

3. At their meeting on 23rd September Members of the Committee asked for further clarification on the recommendation, especially the type of training required. The LINK has now responded to the Committee and the letter containing this information is attached at Annex A to this report.

Protocol

4. The publication of the first LINK reports was an important milestone in the development of the York LINK. In recognising this, the Council and other health partners also felt that there could be improvements in the way information was presented to them and to the public.

¹ Local Involvement Networks

5. Since that meeting, the York LINK has developed a Protocol to improve the process of identifying and agreeing an issue for inquiry through to the production and presentation of the final report. This is attached at Annex B to this report. The protocol sets out the method by which reports will be written and issued. It also defines the roles and responsibilities of different agencies. All future reports will comply with this protocol

Consultation

6. LINKs Public Awareness and Consultation Events are carried out in liaison with many people; these are set out within each report the LINK produces.
7. A draft of the original Report Writing Protocol was e-mailed to all relevant health partners, including the Committee for comments in January 2010.

Options

8. Members are asked to note the Protocol at Annex B to this report.
9. They are also asked to note the contents of the letter from LINKs at Annex A to this report (paragraphs 2 & 3 of this report refer)

Analysis

Neurological Services Recommendation

10. Annex A to this report sets out the LINKs response to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee as referred to in paragraphs 2 & 3 of this report. The LINK Steering Group Members discussed the request made by the Committee to clarify the recommendation and have now devised an alternative approach to monitoring the number of Home Care staff that have undergone the differing types of training required to care for people with neurological conditions.
11. There are no options directly associated with this part of the report and no further action needed from the Committee today.

Protocol

12. The development of the Protocol is a further positive step in the development of York Link. York LINK is very keen to uphold their role as an independent body and recognises that it will be most effective if it can build and sustain healthy relationships with key partners such as the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
13. From a contractual perspective York LINKs have done well to complete and issue reports eighteen months after the award of the contract. There is a real desire locally for LINKs to succeed and add value to the healthcare system of York and to achieve this York LINKs needs to be respected and supported.
14. This means that we expect the LINK at times to make difficult or unpopular findings as their purpose is to provide objectivity, alternative voice and

challenge. However for that difficult role to be fulfilled the LINK will need support to help it develop. Therefore, the Report Writing Protocol presented today gives an opportunity for the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, amongst other partners, to reflect on what has been learnt from the issuing of the first reports and consider how the process of producing and issuing reports may be improved in the future.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

15. This relates to the Healthy City and Inclusive City themes of the Corporate Strategy.

Implications

16. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Legal or other implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

17. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to:
 - i. Note the contents of the letter at Annex A to this report
 - ii. Note the LINKs Report Writing Protocol at Annex B to this report.

Reason: To enable the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to keep up to date with the work of the York LINK & continue to build a positive relationship with them.

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Report Approved



Date 26 February 2010

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

LINks Public Awareness & Consultation Event on Neurological Services – 25 June 2009

Annexes

Annex A Letter to Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 04.02.2010

Annex B LINks Report Writing Protocol