

Health Scrutiny Committee

31 March 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

Summary

1. This report updates members on progress in establishing a LINK for the City of York Council area.

Background

2. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, contains legislation to abolish Patients' Forums and start establishing Local Involvement Networks from 1 April 2008.
3. The Act gives local authorities a duty of make contractual arrangements with a host organisation for the establishment of a LINK.
4. LINKs will have a duty to:
 - a. promote, and support, the involvement of people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of local health and social care services
 - b. enable people to monitor, and review, the commissioning and provision of local health and social care services
 - c. obtain the views of people about their needs for, and experiences of, local health and social care services, and
 - d. make these views known and make reports and recommendations about how local health and social care services might be improved, to persons responsible for commissioning, providing, managing or scrutinising local health and social care services.
5. City of York Council have worked closely with North Yorkshire County Council in carrying out a joint procurement exercise to establish two LINKs one for each local authority area.

6. Nigel Burchell, the officer of CYC who had responsibility for overseeing this process and a representative from North Bank Forum, the new host organisation, have been invited to this meeting to update members on progress.

Consultation

7. None

Options

8. Members can hear the update from the visitors to the meeting and ask questions about progress to date.

Analysis

9. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act will place responsibilities on this Committee to respond to a LINK's referral regarding a social care matter. The regulation-making powers of the NHS Act 2006 are likely to be used in respect of a similar policy regarding the referral of health matters.

Corporate Priorities

10. Relevant to Corporate Priority 6 – Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.

Implications

11. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

12. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to receive the update from the new LINK host and ask any relevant questions.

Reason: In order to carry out their duty to promote the health needs of the people they represent.

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Report Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) *None*

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

None

Background Papers

None