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## Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

23 September 2009

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

### **LINKs<sup>1</sup> - Public Awareness & Consultation Events**

#### **Summary**

1. This report presents Members with the first two reports arising from the York LINKs' Public Awareness and Consultation Events (PACE). These reports detail the information gathered and the recommendations arising as a result of their investigations.

#### **Background**

2. The work plan for the York LINK was set following its Annual General Meeting in March 2009 and is detailed below:
  - Dignity & Respect in Health and Social Care
  - The Future of Mental Health Services in York & North Yorkshire
  - Planning & buying your own care services
  - Implementation of an End of Life Care Strategy
  - Provision of hospital facilities for people with long term conditions (such as neurological conditions)
3. A series of Public Awareness and Consultation Events (PACE) were organised to enable the LINK to gather information and evidence on its chosen themes. The evidence gathered during PACE events is collated and presented in reports, which are sent to the appropriate services and to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
4. The first two reports being presented to the Committee are on 'the future of Mental Health Services in York & North Yorkshire' and 'the provision of hospital facilities for people with long-term conditions (such as neurological conditions)'. These are attached at Annexes A and B respectively.

#### **Consultation**

5. The Public Awareness and Consultation Events were carried out in liaison with many people; these are detailed within each individual report.

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<sup>1</sup> Local Involvement Networks

## **Options**

6. Members are asked to consider the following:
  - i. Their response to recommendation 14 in the report regarding Neurological Services (Annex B refers)
  - ii. Any comments they may wish to make on either of the reports (Annexes A & B refer)
  - iii. Whether they would like to look at any element of either of these issues in further detail by way of a scrutiny review (but avoiding duplication of work).
  - iv. How they would like to receive the PACE reports in future (i.e. formally via Committee meetings or informally via e-mail dependent on whether there are any recommendations within the reports that the Committee needed to address).

## **Analysis**

7. At an informal meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> August the Chair, Vice-Chair and Scrutiny Officer met with the Partnership Co-ordinator for LINKs to discuss how best to manage receiving PACE reports. The two reports attached today are the first ones that have been prepared and Members will need to consider how they wish to receive them in the future (i.e. formally via Committee meetings or informally via e-mail dependent on whether there were any recommendations within the reports that the Committee needed to address).
8. Information contained within these reports may flag up potential issues that Members may consider to require further investigation. These reports could, therefore, be a good source of ideas for potential scrutiny topics and this may help Members decide the best way to receive them in future.
9. Recommendations contained within PACE reports may require a response from the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This is the case in Recommendation 14 of Annex B to this report. A response is required within 20 days of the PACE report being published. Members may wish to discuss the content of their response at this meeting so that the Scrutiny Officer can formally reply to LINKs on their behalf.

## **Corporate Strategy 2009/2012**

10. This relates to the Healthy City theme of the recently refreshed Corporate Strategy.

## **Implications**

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

## Risk Management

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

## Recommendations

13. Members are asked to:
- i. Draft their response to recommendation 14 in the report regarding Neurological Services (Annex B refers) in order that the Scrutiny Officer may formally reply on their behalf.
  - ii. Consider any further comments they may wish to make on either of the reports (Annexes A and B refer)
  - iii. Consider whether they would like to look at any element of either of these issues in further detail by way of a scrutiny review.
  - iv. Consider how they would like to receive the PACE reports in future (i.e. formally via Committee meetings or informally via e-mail dependent on whether there are any recommendations within the reports that the Committee needed to address).

REASON: To enable the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to keep up to date with the work of the York LINK.

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## Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

## Background Papers:

None

## Annexes

**Annex A** Cover Letter & PACE report on Mental Health Services  
**Annex B** Cover Letter & PACE report on Neurological Services