



Leicester
City Council

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All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Health Scrutiny Committee

1st April 2010

Leicester Local involvement Network (LiNK)

Report of the Head of Planning and Commissioning, Personalisation and Business Support Division

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Health Scrutiny Committee of the purpose and remit of the Leicester City LiNK and the host organisation, which supports the work of LiNK.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.2 The LiNK is a Local Involvement Network, an independent organisation that works as a conduit to seek the local community views on how to improve health and social care services and work with providers to bring about positive change. The purpose of its host organisation is to enable, support and facilitate the LiNK in its activities.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS (OR OPTIONS)

- 3.1 The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and the proposal of the LiNK to give a presentation of their work to a future meeting.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 LiNKs were developed in 2008 to give communities a stronger voice in how health and social care services are provided and run. These are independent networks of local people and groups, they are there to find out what people want, investigate issues and use their powers to hold services to account.
- 4.2 LiNKs have built on the work of the NHS Patients Forums, but are open to anyone to join and cover all publically funded health and social care services regardless of who provides them (NHS, Council, private sector or third sector). Commissioners of services are expected to provide LiNKs with information when they request it and respond to the LiNK reports and recommendations and providers also are expected to allow trained LiNKs representatives to view services if requested.
- 4.3 The role of the LiNK is to:

- Encourage and support more people to get involved in shaping local care;
- Actively find out from the community their views and experiences of local care services;
- Provide the community with a mechanism for monitoring and reviewing local care services and the ability to hold them to account;
- Tell those who commission, run and scrutinize local care services what local people have recommended to help improve those services; and
- Provide feedback to LINK participants about how their voice has been heard and how they have helped to influence services, so that things have changed for the better.

4.4 Each local authority has the duty to procure a host organisation to establish and support the LINK. The contract is for three years until March 2011. The host organisation is accountable to the local authority as the contract manager for the support contract.

4.5 The host organisation has core responsibilities to enable support and guide the LINK, in its activities, these core responsibilities include:

- Initiating the set up of the LINK;
- Establish and facilitate the LINK in managing and deciding on its activities, including governance arrangements;
- Hold the finances of the LINK and be the responsible accounting organisation;
- Facilitate the correspondence and communication activities of the LINK;
- Ensure data management and record keeping of LINK activities and information.

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

The host organisation to support the Leicester City LINK is funded until the end of March 2011.

5.2 Legal Implications

The authority has a statutory duty to make arrangements for LINK activity to take place.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within the Report	References
Equal Opportunities	Yes	Throughout	
Policy	Yes	Section 4.	
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	Throughout	

Corporate Parenting	No	
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7. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- 7.1 Statutory Instrument No. 528 (2008). This is supported by a number of guides which illustrate how and why a LINK shall operate.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Leicester LINK Co Chair, LINK host organisation.

9. REPORT AUTHOR

- 9.1 Nicola Hobbs, Head of Planning and Commissioning, Personalisation and Business Support Division, 29 7502.