
Meeting: Social Care Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 15 October 2009
Subject: Bedfordshire Local Involvement Network (LINK) Update
Report of: Bedfordshire LINK
Summary: The report provides Members with an update from Bedfordshire LINK, highlighting local health matters influencing LINK activity as defined by the Health and Social Care Act 2001.

Contact: Bob Smith, Interim Vice Chairman and Finance Officer,
Bedfordshire LINK.

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: n/a

Key Decision n/a

**Reason for urgency/
Exemption from call-
in (if appropriate)** n/a

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the Social Care Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee note the contents of this report for information.**

Reason for Recommendation: So that Members of Joint Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee are aware of the work undertaken by Bedfordshire LINK.

Current LINK Activity

1. 19 members of the LINK have now been Enhanced CRB checked and will participate in Enter & View Training with Milton Keynes' LINK on 16th October in MK and the other session at Cardington on 23rd October.
2. On 9th September a meeting took place between Bedfordshire LINK Board and the Host organisation to help ensure better working relationships. There continues to be a dialogue with the two Unitary Authorities over the timing of the split into two LINKs. It is intended to have a LINK Extraordinary Board Meeting to discuss this split

3. The Interim Chair of the LINK resigned during September. Elections to the Board and Officer appointments are due to take place in January 2010.
4. The Acute Services Working Group is to undertake an Enter & View visit to the Luton & Dunstable Hospital Catering department following concerns about out-of-date food being served. A member of this Working Group will visit Ipswich Hospital together with a Suffolk LINK member to see the new disposable ward curtains. There is evidence that this change helps reduce infection rates.
5. A visit to the Weller Wing by the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Working Group (MHLG) on 11th September and reported improvements to Keats' Ward (Acute Assessment Unit). A second visit is planned to view other wards. Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership Trust (BLPT) staff will attend the next MHLG Working Group meeting to respond to questions concerning patients with disabilities and mental health conditions.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

n/a

Financial:

n/a

Legal:

n/a

Risk Management:

n/a

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

n/a

Equalities/Human Rights:

n/a

Community Development/Safety:

n/a

Sustainability:

n/a