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**Meeting:** Social Care Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 3 December 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.

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**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

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#### **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

**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.*

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**Current LINK Activity**

1. We have received notice that Bedford Borough will withdraw from the present LINK Host contract on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and have appointed Age Concern as the Interim Host. Central Bedfordshire has indicated that it will continue to support the present Host, Voluntary Action Luton. The Acting Chair has written to Bedford Borough in order to fully understand the implications of this move and to reassure that the Bedfordshire LINK will continue its work as this is the wish of 2/3rds of the existing membership
2. On 7<sup>th</sup> December, Bedfordshire LINK hosted a meeting with the Head of Acute/Urgent Care Commissioning for NHS Bedfordshire in order to map a patient pathway for Hospital Discharge planning. This work item is of priority for the Acute Services and Social Services Working Groups of the LINK.
3. An analysis of the membership indicates that currently there are: 39% resident in Central Bedfordshire, 39% resident in Bedford Borough and 16% resident in Luton.
4. Arrangements are being made to meet with the Acting Local Area Manager Bedfordshire of the Care Quality Commission.
5. On 8<sup>th</sup> December two of the Board members met with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Public Involvement in Health at the House of Commons. Patrick Hall MP for Bedford and Kempston is the Chair of this Select Committee. Issues discussed were: increased powers for LINKs; a 5 year extension to the present legislation; and, of course, the change in Bedfordshire with regard to the Unitary Authorities.