

# Central Bedfordshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

**Contains Confidential or Exempt Information** No.

**Title of Report** Central Bedfordshire LINK

**Meeting Date:** 5 July 2012

**Responsible Officer(s)** Bob Smith, Chair, Central Bedfordshire LINK

**Presented by:** Charlotte Bonser, Operations Manager, LINK Host Organisation

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**Action Required:** The Board is asked to:

1. Note the current work programme of the LINK.
2. Note the importance of the LINK legacy into Healthwatch as part of the ongoing patient and public involvement agenda.
3. Note the question to colleagues in the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group around developing an effective relationship between Patient Participation Group and Healthwatch.

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## Executive Summary

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| 1. | This report provides an update on current LINK activity and identifies emerging issues for the Board around patient and public involvement through Healthwatch and the Clinical Commissioning Group. . |
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## Background

Enter and View

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| 2. | The Local Government and Public Involvement Act 2007 give LINK a statutory power enter and view premises where adult social care services are provided. The LINK has recently completed work with its members on training, guidelines and planning for enter and view visits to 6 local residential and nursing care homes in the coming months. |
| 3. | LINK members have been involved in the NHS Falls Prevention Group which has produced an information pack and guidelines on falls prevention for residential and nursing care homes. Enter and view visits are an opportunity for the LINK to gather evidence on how these guidelines are being implemented.                                      |

3.	The Board is asked to consider how data about the customer experience gathered from these visits can best be fed back to commissioners to enable to Board to be able to identify where changes and improvements have been made as a result of patient and public involvement.
LINK Annual Report 2011-12	
4.	The Board is asked to note that the LINK Annual Report for 2011-12 was presented to and accepted by the LINK AGM on 21 June 2012. It was also announced at the meeting that Bob Smith will take over as LINK Chair for 2012-13. The Annual Report is available to view on the Central Bedfordshire LINK website at <a href="http://www.bedfordshirelink.co.uk/Pages/AnnualReport20112.aspx">http://www.bedfordshirelink.co.uk/Pages/AnnualReport20112.aspx</a> .
LINK legacy into Healthwatch	
6.	A key feature of the Annual Report 2011-12 is the LINK's involvement in work to develop Central Bedfordshire Healthwatch. Work is underway with the Council to review the LINK by capturing the views and experiences of members in order to identify the legacy that needs to be carried forward into Healthwatch.
7.	The Central Bedfordshire Healthwatch Steering Group, which includes representation from: Social Care, Health and Housing; Children's Services; NHS Bedfordshire; and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, will take forward the LINK legacy work into the commissioning of Healthwatch.
Patient Participation Group Survey	
8.	The LINK recently completed a survey to identify the number of Patient Participation Groups established by local GP surgeries.
9.	In response to this survey, the LINK would value feedback from Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group about plans to increase the number of Patient Participation Groups and how these groups will relate to Healthwatch to ensure a strong and coherent patient voice is heard by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
<b>Issues</b>	
Strategy Implications	
23.	The work of the LINK and the development of Healthwatch impacts upon the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Engagement Strategy.
Governance & Delivery	
24.	Central Bedfordshire Council is responsible for contracting support arrangements for the independent LINK. Central Bedfordshire Council is responsible for commissioning Healthwatch under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

<b>25.</b>	Healthwatch will be a statutory member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
<b>Management Responsibility</b>	
<b>25.</b>	Central Bedfordshire Council are responsible for contracting support arrangements that enable the work of the independent LINK which it is overseen by the LINK Board.
<b>26.</b>	Commissioning Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire is a duty for the Local Authority under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Management of this process is via a multi-agency Steering Group which also is responsible for leading the development of Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire. Updates on progress towards commissioning Healthwatch to the Health and Wellbeing Board will be through the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing.

### **Risk Analysis**

Briefly analyse the major risks associated with the proposal and explain how these risks will be managed. This information may be presented in the following table.

<b>Identified Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Actions to Manage Risk</b>
Loss of current volunteer base during the transition from LINK to Healthwatch	Low	High	The Healthwatch Transition Steering Group, LINK Board and LINK Host are working together to communicate and engage with LINK members on the development of Healthwatch.
Dilution of patient and public voice by the number of engagement involvement mechanisms such as Patient Participation Groups and Healthwatch	Low	High	The Healthwatch Transition Steering Group including the LINK and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group are working to develop synergy between the various patient and public involvement mechanisms.

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location (including url where possible)</b>

Bob Smith

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_