

Central Bedfordshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information No

Title of Report Central Bedfordshire LINK Report

Meeting Date: 31 January 2013

Responsible Officer(s) Charlotte Bonser (LINK Operations Manager)

Presented by: Bob Smith, Chairman of LINK

Action Required: The Board is asked to:

1. Receive the Overview Report on Enter and View to Six Care/Nursing Homes in Central Bedfordshire .
2. Note LINKs contribution to the emerging Central Bedfordshire Healthwatch.

Executive Summary

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| 1. | To present an Overview Report of its Enter and View Project to six Care/Nursing Homes in Central Bedfordshire (Appendix A).

To highlight LINK's involvement in developing Central Bedfordshire Healthwatch. |
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Background

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| 2. | The above two areas were key tasks within the LINK's 2012-13 work plan.

Following the completion of the Enter and View Project to six Care/Nursing Homes in Central Bedfordshire in October 2012, the LINK Project Group met to review their work on 20 November. Appendix A represents an overview report of the project indicating the aims of the project, main activities, findings, recommendations, conclusions and overall legacy as we move towards Healthwatch. |
| 3. | The reports have been shared with both the Central Bedfordshire Social Care, Health and Housing Compliance Team and the Care Quality Commission and can be accessed on the LINK website at www.bedfordshirelink.co.uk |

4.	At a meeting in November 2012, Maggie Hannelly, CQC Compliance Manager, indicated that the LINK reports had been shared with CQC inspectors and that the report would be considered when undertaking the next round of inspections and that the report had been favourably received by the CQC Inspectors.
5.	The LINK continues to be involved in the development of Central Bedfordshire Healthwatch through its participation in the Healthwatch Pathfinder meetings with colleagues from the voluntary and community sector, NHS and the Council..
6.	The LINK contributed to the joint submission with the Council to become a Pathfinder Healthwatch and is keen to see the establishment of a Healthwatch organisation that involves the third sector, patient participation groups and partners supporting Healthwatch.

Preparing for Healthwatch and patient and public engagement across social care and health

7.	The LINK legacy report, shared with the Pathfinder Healthwatch group, stressed the importance of communication and raising awareness of Healthwatch as widely as possible. It also highlighted the importance of the volunteer base to the success of Healthwatch and the need to continue to involve, engage and develop the existing active LINK membership as well as recruiting new participants.
8.	The LINK has shown how its current structure of gathering information through the recording of incidents and working through issues within its working groups in health, social care and mental health and learning disabilities has been successful. It has also demonstrated the ability to develop its own training for members in enter and view visits to all health and social care bases, and hopes the new Central Bedfordshire Healthwatch will build on these skills as it evolves.
9.	There is some concern regarding where the linkages between Healthwatch and the lay / patient representative structure established by the Clinical Commissioning Group as LINK has been advised that following the appointment of a lay representative, its participation on the Board of the Clinical Commissioning Group is no longer required
10.	The LINK would welcome some clarification on the relationship between the BCCG, Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire and the Lay Representative to support the delivery of BCCG's commitment to engage with patients and the public.

Issues	
Strategy Implications	
11	LiNK's work is aligned to the Health and Well Being Strategy in terms of improving outcomes for the most vulnerable and is an advocate for early intervention and prevention in terms of health and well being.
12.	The objectives in the LiNK report are in line with the main themes within the JSNA and the BCCG strategy.
Governance & Delivery	
13.	Central Bedfordshire Council is responsible for contracting support arrangements for the independent LiNK. Central Bedfordshire is responsible for commissioning Healthwatch under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
Management Responsibility	
14.	Central Bedfordshire Council is responsible for contracting support arrangements that enables the work of the independent LiNK which is overseen by the LiNK Board.
15.	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 on commissioning Healthwatch to the Health and Well Being Board will be through the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing.
Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	
16.	The PSED requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
	Are there any risks issues relating Public Sector Equality Duty Yes
	No Yes <i>Please describe in risk analysis</i>

Risk Analysis

In undertaking enter and view visits to health and social care bases, eg. Hospital wards, care homes, GP surgeries, members must act with due regard to the day-to-day operations of these bases, in terms of respecting the staff, patients and residents of those premises and having due regard to equality issues.

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Enter & View Visits	Low	High	Training and development carried out as required. This will include training in equality and diversity issues taking into account Public Sector Equality Duties.

Source Documents	Location (including url where possible)

Presented by Bob Smith