

**AGM Somerset LINK**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Bridgwater Sports & Social Club**

**Tuesday 8 June 2010, 2:45 pm**

**Attendees:**

*Stewardship Group:* **Carole Hounsell, Brian Shipton, David Boyland**

*LINK Participants:* **Barry Derrick, Jill Pearce, Joan Saddington, Isabel Lodge, Jill Stacey, John Friend, Lorna King, Brian Ducker, Cambell Main, Maureen Lloyd – Williams, D Homer, Andrew Kep, Lucy Adams, Pam Grottick, Syliva Stowe, Phil Brice, Jane Stenner, Graham Cooper, Nick Phillips, Neil Buss, Elaine Hodgson, Caroline Toll, Jo Davenport, Philip King, Amir Anmadi**

*Host staff:* **Stephen Letchford, Jonathan Yelland & Lucy Nicholls.**

*Apologies* **Steve Mudway, Tannith Davidson, Myrtle Johnson, Katherine Egan, Martin Young, Elaine Shepherd, Mark Davis, Rosemary Eaton, Edward Godfrey, Paula Town, Des Robertson, Paula Ingrey, Louise (Grangeportway), Ali Bazley, Heather Skirton, Beccy Mattock, Anna Carey, Sam Healy, Susan (Blackford Book), Marilyn Crump, J Mathews, Jane Lewis, Mark Bernard, Wendy Cornish, Georgina Langley, Elizabeth Pinnington, Sue Dennis, Heather Skirton, Joanne Cambell, Jon Leighton, Janet Loe, Jill Goodwin, Virginia Memebrey, Dick(infoalivecm), Lisa Cann, Anne Mears, Terry Powell, Roger Wharton, John Brookes, Chris Mitchell, Laura Gowers, Randi Jeeps, Chris Crockroft, Margaret Hollic, Shirely Avis, Katrina Midgley, Lesley Gardiner, Phil Edge, Julie Matthews, Ann Anderson, Gary Newton, Rosmary Haslar, Angela Kerr, Ian Davidson, John Heath, Ross Young, Adele Valentine, Claire Corry, Sue Place, Karen Hunt, Susan Hartnell-Beavis, Cheryl Willis, Maggie Harris, Joanna Haxby, Becky Wright, Alison Lee, Liz Bezzant, Elizabeth Feltoe, Di Monaghan, Sam Crabb, Martin Cuthbert, Linda Rumbles, Angela Smith, Jem Abram, Barbara Weston, Calroline Hawkes, Marsha Miles, Cala Mercy, Julie Chant, Peter Smith, Jinny Uppington, Jan Ross, Carol Stone, Alsion Chisolm, Deryk Outram Sue Holmes, Jack Mackenzie, Margaret Grizzell.**

*Before the AGM, a talk was given by Jo Purvis, JSNA Project Manager about the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.*

## 1. Welcome

Carole Hounsell, Chairman of the Stewardship Group of the Somerset LINK, formally welcomed attendees and offered the following comments and questions for consideration by attendees:

- How do we get LINKs better known?
- Should we be having regular open meetings? If so, when/where/how?
- Are there local issues that we should really know about?
- How do we form a conduit for letting people know?
- We're still looking for volunteers to help on projects, steering groups, representatives.

Carole invited any initial questions from the floor:

*When the Stewardship Group was having problems, why were we not told?*

Carole said that attempts were made to convey the situation to all LINK participants when stewardship members resigned over the summer and apologised for any lack of communications that may have occurred.

*How were new members of the Stewardship Group voted on without public meetings?*

Carole explained that new Stewardship Group members were co-opted on after various Stewardship Group members resigned.

*How will the Stewardship Group ensure that the wider LINK is kept up to date in future?*

Carole advised that news is available via the newsletter and the website and these are updated regularly. Anyone with time to contribute towards the LINK would be welcomed.

*Can the public attend Stewardship Group meetings?*

Carole confirmed that members of the public are welcome to attend Stewardship Group meetings and the minutes are made available on the website.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the LINK participants as named above.

## 3. Project Plans update

LINK Development Officers Jonathan Yelland and Lucy Nicholls gave an overview and an update about the six projects that are being undertaken over the coming year:

1. Carers
2. Mental Health
3. Enter & View
4. Transport
5. Commissioning Services
6. Community Chest Fund

An invitation to participate was extended to anyone who would like to offer time or views towards to the projects.

#### **4. Presentation of Annual Report**

Carole Hounsell presented the Somerset LiNk Annual Report 2009-2010.

#### **5. Acceptance of Annual Report**

The Annual Report was accepted.

*Comments from the floor:*

Orchard View was suggested from the floor as a possible venue for Enter & View visiting.

*Do organisations have to be informed before Enter & View occurs?*

Jonathan Yelland confirmed that reasonable notice must be given before Enter & View. He also explained that some other LiNks are running pilot Enter & View projects and we will pass on their findings as they emerge.

*What occurred to the overspend for the budget?*

Lucy Nicholls explained that the budget for the forthcoming year was agreed between the local Council and the host organisation, Help & Care.

*What will happen when the LiNk budget finishes in March 2011?*

Lucy Nicholls explained that there would be a body who would take over as the 'patient voice' in the country but what form that would take is still under discussion. However, the work that was undertaken by the LiNk would roll forward and feed into the work of the new body.

*It was noted that the Social Care issues represented a much smaller percentage of views expressed by members of the public.*

Carole agreed that the LiNk had found social care a 'harder nut to crack' compared to the health issues. Caroline Toll (Carers UK) pointed out that the Carers' Strategy Group oversaw a wide remit of social care services and commissioning and do a lot at a high level.

*Comment from the floor: There is definitely a vacuum in terms of user involvement in Somerset – it feels 'tokenistic'. The LiNk is a great opportunity and needs to take it.*

There was some discussion about possible ways of raising the profile of LiNk by getting publicity material out across the county and by contacting specific community groups. Carole suggested that if anyone had links with any community groups that we had not reached, to please let us know.

#### **6. Presentation of LiNk Structure/Stewardship Group**

Carole presented the LiNk Structure/Stewardship Group.

#### **7. Acceptance of LiNk Structure/Stewardship Group**

The LiNk Structure/Stewardship Group was accepted.

#### **8. Any other business**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.05 pm.