



Your voice on local health and social care

# Your Voice on Local Health and Social Care

March 2009 Local Involvement Network Election Special

Somerset Issue 03

## The ballot

The election results for the first Somerset LINK stewardship group are now in.

212 ballot papers were posted to all those registered with the LINK with an excellent 43.4 per cent response rate.

The election count was carried out on Friday, 27 February, with the help of Keith Whittaker, Associate Director of Public Involvement at NHS Somerset, who came to Help and Care's office in Hambridge to verify that the process was fair and open. Keith joined the LINKs host team members, Lynda Chatfield, locality manager, and Amy Morse, development officer, for the count.

Keith said: "I was particularly impressed with the wide range of candidates. The host organisation, Help and Care, had a very clear, methodical and professional approach to the elections so members should have confidence in the results.

"NHS Somerset looks forward to working with the Local Involvement Network for Somerset, the stewardship group members and Help and Care."

The first meeting for stewardship group members will take place on 20 March. In the coming weeks members will receive training on three key areas to enable them to fulfil their roles within the LINK: Being Accountable, Understanding the System & Making Decisions

## The results

Candidate	No. of votes	Per cent
Julie Chant	40	43
Jon Clausen-Berg	28	30
Leroy Clifton	21	23
Carole Hounsell	43	47
Maureen Lloyd-Williams	30	33
Di Monaghan	47	51
John Murphy	35	38
Richard Pitman	49	53
Rafal Skarbek	28	30
Rachel Whitcombe	31	34

**Note:** Per cent means the percentage of people voting who voted for each candidate.



## The stewardship group

The LINK stewardship group will steer the work of the LINK and support and enable groups and individuals to carry out the work of the LINK through:

- Ensuring key local stakeholders are represented and their views considered
- Allocating resources for the work of the LINK
- Communicating with the wider community
- Planning work and allocating resources to support that work
- Supporting groups to undertake work and take up issues as necessary
- Supporting groups to produce reports which commissioners and providers can use to improve services
- Approving reports produced by groups on behalf of the LINK

Members of the group will be asked to sign up to the seven Nolan Principles of Public Life.

The following bodies will each be invited to send one representative as an observer/information representative (with no voting rights):

- Primary Care Trust • Adult Social Care • Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees • NHS Trusts

## Meet the Somerset LINKs host team.....

### Lynda Chatfield, Locality Manager

"My work as a District and Macmillan Nurse means I have seen first hand the effects of services provision for patients, their families and carers.

My team and I will be actively canvassing every section of the community for their views and experiences, and encouraging them to get involved in shaping care services."

### Amy Morse, Development Officer

"I have been busy meeting people, talking to community groups, charities and other stakeholders.

I love being out and about and my background in community engagement, with long term unemployed people, means I have lots of experience motivating and supporting people."

### Trish Starkey, Administrator

"I support the team with administrative tasks and ensure the smooth running of the office.

Alongside the LINK, I also work as a learning support assistant and have previously worked with young adults, in and leaving care. I am also a carer for two people with disabilities."

### Beth Jerrett, Communications and Online Support

"My job is to spread the word about the LINK, encouraging people to have their say and help make a change.

My work as journalist and a press officer means I have lots of experience in public relations and I look forward to working with the stewardship group to find new and exciting ways of encouraging people to join in!"

## Your experience matters

The LINK means more people than ever are having their say about health and social care in Somerset.

The LINK builds on the successful work that has already been done to get local people involved in shaping services, and is a great opportunity to encourage more people to speak out.

The chance to widen participation means we can really tap into the diverse community in Somerset to ensure everyone's needs are met.

The experience that our colleagues bring to the LINK will be vital in moving forward, to cover new ground, and ensure that services in Somerset are amongst the best in the country.

One of principal roles of the stewardship group is to plan the work of the LINK.

This will be based on evidence gathered through the wider LINK network so we need you to tell us what you think are the most important health and social care issues for Somerset.



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