

**Minutes of the Somerset LINK Steering Group
Tuesday 26th July 2011 @ 11.00am
Frome Community Hospital, Enos Way, Frome, BA11 2FH
The Moxton Suite**

In attendance:

Steering Group: Di Jepson (chair), David Boyland, Anne Woodford, Margot Parsons, Lorna King, Richard Buckley, Bob Champion, Elaine Hodgson

Help and Care (Host): Stephen Letchford
Theresa Stanton

Speakers at the Meeting in Public

Somerset County Council: Gareth O'Rourke & Rachael Pringle
Discussion on HealthWatch

Alzheimer's Society: Steve Haigh Presentation and discussion on Dementia

Members from the Public: Jillian Stacey, Caroline Toll, Rachel Bye, Dick Acworth, Benita Moore, Sue Stone & Paul Courtney

Detail:

Action:

1. **Welcome:**
A warm welcome was extended to everyone present.

2. **Apologies:**
Jono Yelland, Lucy Nicholls, Eilleen Tipper, Penny Rawson

3. **TALK 1: HealthWatch – Gareth O'Rourke & Rachael Pringle**

Gareth O'Rourke started the discussion by explaining that the transition from LINK to HealthWatch will have taken place by October 2012. He said that LINK were to be given more teeth by being part of the Health and Wellbeing Board. He explained that the delay in the commencement of HealthWatch was due to the pause and listen

Detail:**Action:**

exercise. The purpose of him and Rachel Pringle attending the meeting was to hear and discuss the views of the LINK participants and those persons in the audience about the changes and how the design of HealthWatch might look.

The discussion included some of the following points

- To make sure that the new design would be realistic with the funds that are available, and to remain committed to Public Engagement.
- To design a HealthWatch model which would be sustainable for volunteers to continue to work independently to scrutinise health and Social care.
- HealthWatch would not be run by the Local Authority.
- To make ensure that all volunteers were properly supported and trained to carry out their roles and governance was in place to ensure roles and responsibilities were clear.

Points raised from the floor included:

- HealthWatch/LINK needs to work more closely with elected representatives but not in a way that would mean the work of HealthWatch/LINK was directed by them.
- Engagement with volunteers, other groups and stakeholders and their views considered in the future design of HealthWatch.
- Given the extra demands places on Volunteers they will need to be sufficiently trained and supported to carry out these tasks.
- Volunteers should be involved in the tender process
- Concerns were raised by volunteers and a member of the public about the potential loss of the current Host staff and impact this might have with working relationships having to start afresh. There was also concern that the good work and experience would be lost and everything would end up starting all over again, presenting more challenges and disruption.

It was decided that Somerset County Council and members of the Steering Group would set a date in September for a workshop meeting for the designing of a process of engagement that would help to shape HealthWatch. A venue date and time would be provided by the Local Authority. This meeting would be in Bridgwater. The SG would forward proposed dates for the meeting to the LA.

TAIK 2: Steve Haigh – Alzheimer’s Society

Steve Haigh presented a 30 minute talk on Dementia and Alzheimer’s.

Detail:**Action:**

Break for lunch 1.15pm

4. LINK Meeting proper:**Declaration of interest updated**

There were no declaration of interest

5. Questions or concerns from the public:

There were none

6. Minutes from previous meeting (and actions):

Richard Buckley recorded as a 'Non attendee' will be altered to apologies.

Item 3: Action to be carried forward. Jonathan Yelland

Item 4: PCT Rep – There are 4 volunteers interested in being the representative. These are: Richard, Bob, David and Penny.

An email would be sent to all those interested inviting them to apply. Lucy will be asked to go through the process of checking their resumes against their suitability to attend the meeting. Then a vote by the SG would take place. Attending the meeting will not be a shared role.

Lucy

The minutes were accepted as a true reading.

7. Matters arising from Minutes not on the Agenda:

There were no matters arising

8. Future meetings: Chair / timings / refreshments:

Diane is stepping down from Chairman as of 29th July. David will act as Chair until a new chair is elected.

The SG decided that Interested parties who would like to be considered for this position put their name forward together with a small article/paragraph in support of their application.

A permanent Chair would be decided not a rolling chair arrangement.

Diane's reason for her resignation was the amount of work she had taken on. Everyone was reminded that the SG shared in the responsibility of governance and direction of the LINK and that one person should not feel accountable for all its activities. Responsibility for its activities should be shared within the governance group.

Diane was asked if she would remain on the SG. She would consider it. It was confirmed that the dates of all the next SG meetings would remain current (an email was sent to all members, and also available at the

Detail:**Action:**

meeting today).

All meetings would start at 11.00am – 1pm 1.30pm – 2.30pm with a break in the middle. Lunch provided at 1pm.

9.

Current Project: Update

- Carers Project – The response to the report has been very positive and will be used to support the continuation of the Carers' Champions in champions in GP surgeries.
- Mental Health Project – The Somerset Partnership may use this report as one of the documents to help inform their involvement strategy.
- Transport: The draft report has been completed and sent to the working group for comment and alteration as required.
- Community Chest: Concluded
- Enter & View: 2 more visits to residential care homes have taken place in the last 2 months; these are Chelston Gardens and Elms Residential Care Home. The report for Chelston Gardens has been completed. The report for Elms has not yet been written. Provisional dates for a selection of E&V visits has been agreed.
- Patient Stories: The leaflet has been agreed and is currently with the printers.
- Equality Delivery System: Training has been provided. A date for future meeting is awaited.

10.

LINK Rep Feedback: including budget update: External meeting records were made available for members to read and to discuss at the next meeting.

Margot has distributed leaflets regarding the LINK to GP surgeries and Health Centres within the Glastonbury/Wells area.

Letters were sent to LINK participants in the Sedgemoor area asking if they would like to represent the LINK at the Sedgemoor Health Forum starting in September. A response had been received Mr & Mrs Elder. It was agreed to ask them to represent the LINK at this meeting. Host support will be provided for the first meeting.

It was decided that there was enough money in the budget to consider another project.

It was agreed to fund another Community chest. The amount to be made available for this would be £5,000 with bids to the maximum of £500

Detail:**Action:**

granted to suitable applications. Applications must be for projects on health and social care issues. Consideration to additional funding would be considered if after selection other projects merited funding. It was agreed that the project should not be open to those who had received funding from the previous community chest.

11. Issues that have come in from the Public:

A letter of complaint has been sent to the LINK regarding Barton Deane Hospital. Lucy has written back to acknowledge the complaint and has been informed that Somerset Community Health are dealing with it.

12. Briefing on NHS Changes:

To be carried over to the next meeting.

12. AOB

7th, 8th & 30th Sept were dates suggested for the Workshop meeting with Somerset County Council. An email would be sent to SCC and SG to clarify which date, and what venue in Bridgwater.

Steve**Meeting closed at 3.00pm**