



## Press Release

# Doctor is new elected chair!

23 July 2009

Vicki King, who has a doctorate in micro-biology, is the first elected chair of the West Sussex Local Involvement Network (LINK) Stewardship Group.

This is an important development for the West Sussex LINK which is dedicated to giving local people a real opportunity to influence their health and social care services.

“The LINK’s Stewardship Group is playing a key role by ensuring that people with health and social care issues and interests are represented - and that their views are considered.”

“We are responsible for planning the work of the LINK and for allocating resources to support it”, Vicki explains. “We take up issues as necessary, and ensure that our findings and recommendations reach the commissioners and providers who are in positions to improve services”.

“I am convinced that the public and patients know best what they want from these services, and am determined that the LINK will provide a strong and confident voice to influence more patient centred services”, says Vicki.

In addition to her professional knowledge of healthcare services, Vicki brings years of experience as a volunteer in the sector, promoting the involvement of patients and the public in the health service. She has also served as a publicly elected NHS Hospital Foundation Trust Governor.

Vicki will be supported by Vice-Chair, John Gooderham, who since retiring has participated in many forms of patient and public involvement. He is a volunteer driver taking people to NHS and social care appointments who works to reflect their concerns on the committees on which he serves.

The other members of the Stewardship Group are: Lilian Bold, Anthony Davies, Stuart Henderson, Mary-Ann Letten, Christopher McCrory, Paul Renshaw, Tony Reynolds, Terry Rixon, Patrick Shanahan, Betty Smith, John Thompson and Michael Vincent.

Anyone across the county who wants to share their views and experiences about health and social care - both good and bad – should contact the West Sussex LINK.

Please phone **0300 111 0102**, email [westsussexlink@makesachange.org.uk](mailto:westsussexlink@makesachange.org.uk), or visit the website, [www.makesachange.org.uk](http://www.makesachange.org.uk)

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### Notes for editors:

- LINKs are independent networks of organisations and individuals representing the views of local people. They allow everyone to have a say in how health and social care services are planned, developed and implemented.
- Help & Care has been appointed to be the host organisation for the West Sussex LINK. The Charity also provides support for LINKs in Bournemouth, Bracknell Forest, Dorset, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, Poole, Slough, Somerset, Torbay, West Berkshire, Windsor, Ascot & Maidenhead and Wokingham.
- The host team for the West Sussex LINK is based in Billingshurst, West Sussex.
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