

# County Durham LINK Management Committee Meeting

## Draft Minutes

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe

		ACTION
1.	<p><b>Present:</b> David Haw (Chair), Peter Irving (Vice Chair), Colin Burton, Mary Mitchell, Anne Stobbs, Audrey Chapman, Malcolm Harrison, Jim Welch, Stuart Harvey, Margaret Williams, Malcolm Fallow.</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Julia Catherall (minutes), Sue Jennings, Alesha Aljeffri, Mark Henderson and Diane Stobbs.</p>	
2.	<b>Apologies:</b> were received from Jim Rochester and Jackie Heslop	
3.	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> Approved and agreed as a true record.	
4.	<p><b>Matters arising not on the agenda:</b> Sue mentioned that she had asked One Voice Network for email addresses for members that were not LINK members who attended the One Voice Network event but has not received this information yet.</p> <p>No further information had been received from Jim Rochester regarding the Women's Institutes (WI).</p> <p>The Enter and View representatives and 3 of the Standards Committee met for the first time on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. This meeting went well and a lot of time was taken introducing themselves to the rest of the group. A 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is taking place on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>JR</p> <p>SJ</p>
5.	<p><b>LINK Workplan update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural health issues – 20 people attended the workshop on the 6<sup>th</sup> April which included 4 members from Darlington LINK. The day was very interesting however the feedback from the meeting stated that the presentation was disappointing. This will be fed back to Jill Simpson when Alesha meets with her on the 6<sup>th</sup> May where there will be a discussion around forming a small working group. Alesha to bring back a proposal on the way forward to the next Management Committee meeting.</li> <li>Carers strategy – The small working group met on 19<sup>th</sup> March and the event took place on 8<sup>th</sup> April. The meeting was very passionate where people got the opportunity to</li> </ul>	<p>AA</p> <p>SJ</p>

	<p>have their say. A report was submitted and a response has now been received from Durham County Council. The working group will be brought back together to respond. Dave suggested that if the reply was not satisfactory to refer it to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seizing the future – The plans for Seizing the Future have now been approved. NHS County Durham has invited two members of the LINK to be part of an implementation group. Dave suggested that this should be one person from the Management Committee and one person from the wider LINK. It was suggested that this member should be from the South of the County. Expressions of interest to be sought.</li> <li>• Lack of Day Care opportunities for people with Mental Health issues – The full strategy is due out this week. The consultation period is 12 weeks with quite significant changes for people in County Durham.</li> <li>• Lack of Day Care opportunities for people with Learning Difficulties – Alan Curry from Durham County Council will be attending both sessions on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May to talk to LINK members about the Learning Disabilities Strategy.</li> <li>• Alcohol – A meeting has been arranged with Clare Sullivan from Public Health to discuss how the LINK can be involved. Jim Rochester, Sue and Alesha will attend this.</li> <li>• Dementia/Alzheimer’s Services – Colin Burton has agreed to be the lead on this. The host is currently asking members who would be interested in being involved.</li> <li>• Provision of talking therapies – Sue advised the management committee that there could be a conflict of interest with the Pioneering Care Partnership who currently manage a Counselling Service. Host to check with Dave Shaw and Liz Greer to see if they would be interested in undertaking this piece of work. Sue to contact both to discuss how this might happen.</li> <li>• Dave asked that when working groups meet an action plan to include the group’s objectives, time scales for implementation and how success will be measured.</li> </ul>	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>AA</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>
6.	<p><b>Proposed LINK workplan Issue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domicillary Care - LINK members have raised issues regarding domicillary care and a paper was presented to the Management Committee. The Committee agreed to add this issue to the work plan.</li> </ul>	<p>SJ</p>
7.	<p><b>Special Interest Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Disability Parliament (LDP) – Alesha has met with Brian and Julia from the Learning Disability Parliament and a</li> </ul>	<p>AA</p>

	<p>working protocol has now been agreed. Alesha will meet with the LDP on a monthly basis with items that have been discussed at the management committee meetings. She will then feed back any items that the LDP raise back to the Management Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durham Disability Voice (DDV) - It has been agreed that the Host will support DDV two half days per week. They will initially help with setting up a membership database and help promote the organisation to hopefully increase their membership. A joint event has been arranged with DDV and Age Concern for the 17<sup>th</sup> June at Shotton Hall.</li> <li>• Codeaf – Sue and Alesha met with Richard Moriarty from Codeaf. A presentation will be given to Codeaf members at their event on 8<sup>th</sup> May and then a separate event will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> June to look at LINK work plan issues. A draft protocol has been put together which proposes that the Host staff will meet every quarter with Codeaf members – this will be reviewed on a regular basis.</li> <li>• Children and Young People – Sue and Alesha met with Maria Brennan from Investors in Children (IIC) and raised their concerns regarding comments raised at the last meeting by the IIC worker around the lack of progress in engaging children and young people. A draft protocol has now been agreed and this will come in to effect once IIC have a new member of staff in place. In the meantime, both 2D and East Durham Trust have been asked to organise an agenda day with children and young people and it is envisaged that these will take place in June. A discussion took place around the children/young person’s seat on the Management Committee and it was agreed that there is no obligation to have a place available but that the seat would be kept open indefinitely. It was agreed that a letter would be written to the Manager of Investors in Children advising them of the Management Committee’s disappointment about the negativity and lack of engagement of IIC so far, but to also confirm that they are looking forward to a more positive relationship in the future with the new working protocol.</li> </ul>	<p>SJ/SR</p> <p>SJ/AA</p> <p>SJ/AA</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>District Events update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first district event was in Sedgefield and went very well with 17 people attending. The Durham event was a small group of members. The next event is Chester le Street which also has a small amount of members attending. There are expected to be about 20 members at the other district events which is very positive.</li> </ul>	<p>Host</p>

9.	<p><b>Special Interest group events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See 7 above.</li> <li>• Countywide Mental Health Forum – A meeting is planned in May to discuss work plan issues.</li> </ul>	SJ
11	<p><b>Management committee members review procedure and questionnaire:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The procedure for Management Committee members in terms of elections was discussed. The constitution states that a third of the Committee must stand down each year so 4 people would be required to do this in 2009. And elections would then take place prior to the AGM in October. There was a discussion around the knowledge and experience that has now been gained by Management Committee members and that it would be difficult if some of this experience was lost. Dave suggested that it could be considered that no one stands down during the first year, then start the process of one third standing down from 2010 then a third in 2011 and the last third in 2012. He also said that elections could be left until year 3, but that this would mean the whole Committee standing down and then there is a potential to lose all of the experience gained. If this was to happen, then the constitution would need to be changed. The Management Committee questionnaire is to completed and handed back to the Host team by the 31<sup>st</sup> May.</li> </ul>	SJ
12	<p><b>Items for sign off:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item A -The Procedure for Joint working between Durham and Darlington LINK was unanimously agreed to be signed off.</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Any other business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave advised the Management Committee that he, Jane and Sue attended a protocol workshop with Durham County Council, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and NHS County Durham and there had been a disagreement between him and Jane regarding the role of the LINK. Dave had felt that the role of the LINK was that it shouldn't be the only avenue for consultation whereas Jane had felt that the LINK could be used as a conduit to inform networks. Sue added that she thought it had been a misunderstanding and pointed out that there is a policy around the LINK being consulted with. Dave also added that voluntary sector organisations such as Age Concern, Carers Centres etc are required to consult as part of their contracts and the LINK should not replace this. The LINK could however be involved if these organisations felt</li> </ul>	

	<p>that they/service users were not being listened to. The Management Committee agreed with Dave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary congratulated the work that the Host team have done so far and asked for this to be recorded. She said that the team have worked really hard, but that she was also a little concerned about work life balance.</li> <li>• Jim Welch advised the group that there is a meeting at Lumley Castle on Wednesday regarding Advocacy where case studies on advocacy training for Social workers will be discussed.</li> <li>• Sue advised the group that the Management Committee information day that was held in April was very enjoyable but expressed a concern that it was poorly attended by members of the management committee. It was agreed that Management Committee information days are useful and should continue but just as half days rather than a full day.</li> <li>• It was Anne Stobbs last meeting as part of the Interim Steering Group. Dave thanked Anne for all her hard work and commitment.</li> </ul>	
14	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18th May 2009 at Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope, DL13 2FJ at 10am and to finish with lunch at 12.00.</li> </ul>	