

County Durham LINK Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 10 October 2011

The Durham Centre, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham

1. Present:

Jacqueline Algie, Cliff Allison, Keven Ashburn, Jan Atkinson, Sharon Bell, Mark Bennett, Stewart Bentham, George Blakemore, Aubrey Blythe, Margaret Blythe, Gerard Boyd, Angela Brown, David Burn, Colin Burton, John Cairns, Betty Carr, Colin Carter, Audrey Chapman, Alan Charlton, Mark Colledge, Tony Cooke, Edna Connor, David Coombs, Pamela Coombs, Sandra Cottrell, Steve Day, Dr John Dean, Syd Duggan, Shirley Erskine, Malcolm Fallow, Christine Fletcher, Frances Foggin, Robert Fothergill, Jill Gladstone, Les Goodrum, Geraldine Granath, Linda Gibson, Sheila Grant, Liz Greer, Stephen Gwilym, Catherine Haigh, David Haw, Michael Hemingway, Brewis Henderson, Nicola Hepple, Jane Hesford, John Hudson, Katharine Humby, Ian Hunter-Smart, Ken Ibbotson, Gill Irving, Peter Irving, Jamie Jones, Pauline King, Michael Lowthian, John Marshall, Noel McMenemy, Johanne Mears, Sarah Millerchip, Robin Millerchip, Mary Mitchell, James Newton, Kim Newton, Edith Norwood, Frank Norwood, Leeanne Owens, June Palmer, Denis Parry, George Porter, Ken Robson, Jim Rodwell, Debbie Ryan, Doreen Sadler, Jill Salkeld, Jim Scarth, Jenny Shepard, Mary Simpson, Norman Smith, George Spoons, Pam Spurrell, Donna Stewart, Joan Storey, David Taylor-Gooby, Chris Thwaites, Councillor Robin Todd, Kath Toward, Marion Usher, Janet Walls, Betty Welch, Jim Welch, Margaret Welch, Juliet Wilson, Jennifer Wood, Ron Wood, Alex Zielinski.

2. In Attendance:

Jane Hartley, Chief Executive, Pioneering Care Partnership. LINK Staff - Alesha Aljeffri, Kirsty Hill, Julia Catherall, Sandra Roberts. Lip Speakers - Mandy Allen. Palantypist – Karen Schober. Photographer - Arnie Lyndley.

3. Apologies:

Agnes Armstrong, Dr Kate Bidwell, Jackie Candish, Margaret Chappell, Pauline Crathorne, Ian Cummings, Kath Currie, Darlington LINK, Margaret Dent, Debbie Daniels, Mark Dunne-Willows, Stephen Eames, Denise Elliott, Nancy Elliott, Ghita Harbour, Feisal Jassat, Hilary Lane, Lee Mack, John MacDonald, Chris Midcalf, Northumberland LINK, Lynsey Pattison, Margaret Rowe, Audra Salem, Christine Schollen, Joanne Smithson, Joan Taylor.

4. Stalls Holders:

2D, Age UK, Breathe Easy: British Lung Foundation, Butterwick Hospice, Care Connect, County Durham Citizens Advice Partnership, East Durham Citizens Panel, ICAS, Pioneering Care Partnership, Stonham.

5. Introduction and Welcome

Alesha opened the meeting and welcomed everyone; members, stakeholders (NHS, Durham County Council, CVS's, other Local Involvement Networks and other organisations) and stall holders. She then ran through the housekeeping before introducing Peter Irving.

6. Message from the Chair

Peter Irving took the stage and welcomed everyone: "Hello everyone and it is with great pleasure that I present the annual review of the LINK this year."

Peter stated that he was pleased to see so many of the partners that the LINK works had been able to attend and thanked all the members for being a part of the LINK and stated that he hoped they would continue to support the LINK as it moves into a new era.

Peter gave a presentation entitled Annual Review 2010/2011. After completing his presentation Peter then welcomed Jane Hartley on to the stage. (Copies of the presentations given at this event are available from the LINK office)

7. Governance – Management Committee Elections

- Jane first tabled the minutes from the last AGM and asked if the members were happy to have this recorded as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Mary Mitchell, **Seconded:** Betty Carr and Pamela Spurrell.

- Jane asked the members to formally elect those management committee members that had been co-opted onto the Committee throughout the last year.

Those members were:

- Alan Charlton
- Brewis Henderson
- David Taylor-Gooby
- Robin Millerchip

All four members were formally elected.

- Three members (Colin Burton, Mary Mitchell and Peter Irving), had stepped down under retirement by rotation rule in County Durham LINK's constitution. All three had formally put themselves forward for re-election; two of these members were unopposed and Jane asked the members to formally re-elect them.

Those members were:

- Mary Mitchell

Both were formally re-elected onto the Management Committee.

- A formal election process took place in Derwentside after three candidates were nominated to run for the two Derwentside positions on the Management Committee. Jane thanks all three candidates and those members that voted. The elected candidates for Derwentside are Gerard Boyd and Colin Burton.
- Finally Jane announced that Jim Welch is standing down from the committee. Jim represented people with sensory and physical disabilities and had been elected by Durham Disability Voice who no longer operate. Jane thanked Jim for all his hard work on behalf of the Management Committee, members and Host. To ensure that this group continues to be represented on the Management Committee a sub group is being set up – anyone wishing to be involved should contact the host

After the governance was completed Jane gave a presentation entitled Message from Host. (Copies of the presentations given at this event are available from the LINK office)

Jane then introduced Liz Greer who is an independent consultant who has been working with County Durham LINKs Development Group.

9. Developing HealthWatch – The County Durham LINK View?

Liz gave a presentation based on the work the HealthWatch development group. (Copies of the presentations given at this event are available from the LINK office).

The floor was then opened up for comments.

10. Voting

All Attendees :

Before today, were you aware that in 2012, LINK would end and be replaced by local HealthWatch?

The majority off the attendees that responded said yes

Do you understand how local HealthWatch will differ from LINKs?

The majority off the attendees that responded said yes

Would you like local HealthWatch to be run by a local organisation?

The majority off the attendees that responded said yes

Should local HealthWatch be run on a not-for-profit basis?

The majority off the attendees that responded said yes

How confident are you in local HealthWatch's ability to effectively represent your interests on health care issues?

The majority off the attendees abstained from voting

How confident are you in local HealthWatch's ability to effectively represent your interests on social care issues?

The majority off the attendees abstained from voting

How confident are you in local HealthWatch's independence given that it will be funded by Durham County Council?

The majority off the attendees stated that they had no confidence

Should Durham County Council include working effectively with LINK during the transition in its tender specification?

The majority off the attendees that responded said yes

Members Only:

What should be LINK's main priority in the coming year?

The majority of the members said the priority should be ensuring a positive LINK legacy transfers to HealthWatch

Do you agree with the proposals discussed regarding the future of the LINK/development of Local HealthWatch?

The majority of the members said yes – this means the proposal has been carried.

12. Developing HealthWatch – The National View

Mary Simpson, Head of HealthWatch Program for the Department of Health gave a verbal update on the nation view of HealthWatch. Once this had been delivered the floor was opened up for questions.