

Subject:	Brighton & Hove Local Involvement Network (BHLINK): 6 Monthly Update		
Date of Meeting:	08 December 2010		
Report of:	The Strategic Director, Resources		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report includes the regular (6 monthly) update for HOSC members on activities undertaken by the Brighton & Hove Local Involvement Network (BHLINK) and an update on the management of the LINK Host contract.
- 1.2 **Appendix 1** to this report consists of information supplied by BHLINK; **Appendix 2** to this report consists of information provided by the council's contract manager for the BHLINK host's contract.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note this report and its appendices.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) are statutory bodies created by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) to encourage greater public and patient engagement with health and social care. Details of recent and future LINK activities may be found in **Appendix 1** to this report.

- 3.2 Funding for LINKs is distributed by local authorities. The 2007 Act required local authorities to contract with a 'host' organisation to provide administrative and research support for LINK members.
- 3.3 In Brighton & Hove, the local Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) won the contract to host the LINK. This contract is managed by the council. Details on the contract are included in **Appendix 2** to this report.
- 3.4 The recent health white paper, Equity and Excellence, announced that LINKs would transform into organisations called 'Healthwatch' in 2013. The details of how this transformation is to be undertaken are currently unclear, but HOSC members will be updated on this matter when guidance is published.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 None.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 None to this report for information

Legal Implications:

- 5.2

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 None directly

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None directly

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None directly

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 None directly

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 None directly

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Information supplied by BHLINK
2. Information supplied by the council's contract manager for the LINK Host contract

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)

