

Subject: Brighton & Hove Local Involvement Network (LINK) 6 monthly update

Date of Meeting: 05 November 2008

Report of: The Director of Strategy and Governance

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) are organisations intended to facilitate public involvement in the planning and performance monitoring of local health and social care services.
- 1.2 A Brighton & Hove LINK was established in April 2008 when a Host organisation was appointed by the city council to manage the LINK. This report provides an update on the progress of the LINK in the last six months, both from the perspective of the council's LINK Contract Manager (see **appendix 1**) and from the LINK Host (see **appendix 2**)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members:
- (1) note this report;
 - (2) agree to receive regular (6 monthly) updates on the progress of the LINK from the LINK Contract Manager and the LINK Host.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) are organisations intended to facilitate public and stakeholder involvement in the commissioning and

delivery of local health and social care services. LINKs were established by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007).

- 3.2 LINKs are envisaged as networks, bringing together individuals and organisations with particular interests in aspects of health and social care.
- 3.3 LINKs can comment on health and social care initiatives, input to the commissioning process, monitor the delivery of services and gauge the views of the broader community on all of these issues.
- 3.4 The Government anticipates that LINKs will work closely with local authority Overview & Scrutiny Committees and has provided LINKs with a statutory power to refer items to Overview & Scrutiny.
- 3.5 Local Authorities were given the task of procuring Host organisations for their local LINK and for managing the contract with the preferred LINK Host. After a procurement process, the Brighton & Hove Community & Voluntary Sector Forum was awarded the contract to host the Brighton & Hove LINK. **Appendix 1** to this report contains additional information relating to the council's contract with the LINK Host.
- 3.6 LINK Host organisations are required to attract and enrol LINK members, advise the LINK membership, provide administrative support and ensure that the LINK delivers according to its contractual obligations. **Appendix 2** to this report contains additional information on how the LINK Host has sought to establish the Brighton & Hove LINK.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 This report is to note; there are therefore no financial implications for the HOSC.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 As set out in the body of the report LINKs have been established under the Local Authority and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Section 226 of the Act confers certain responsibilities on the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council to receive matters relating to Social Care services referred from a LINK and to decide whether there is any action that can and should be taken by the Committee.

Therefore the Committee will need to keep informed of the work of the LINK and monitor progress in order to be able to discharge its duties.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert; Date: 20.10.08

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The LINK is intended to facilitate public involvement in health and social care, and, in particular, to encourage the participation of under-presented communities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are none.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 there are none.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Effective public engagement with the commissioning and delivery of health and social care is a key factor in developing services which meet the needs of local people. The Brighton & Hove Link offers a considerable opportunity to develop good practice in this area.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 An effective LINK will help the council meet its corporate objectives, particularly in terms of 'Creating opportunities and reducing barriers to achievement for all residents', 'Keeping residents informed and engaged', 'Working together to target the most vulnerable', and, 'Improving the health of our residents.'

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Information provided by the LINK Host Contract Manager, Brighton & Hove City Council (to follow for full committee papers).
2. Information provided by the LINK Host (to follow for full committee papers).

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None

