

Gateshead LINK
Steering Group
Thursday 1st April 2010
GVOC
10am – 1pm

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:

Dave Wallace	Resident
Ethel Donnelly	Resident
Kay Parker	Resident
Maria Hall	Resident
Gretel Keadell	Resident
Norah Stevens	PCT Public Involvement Gateshead Locality Lead
Alan Davison	Age Concern Gateshead
Andi Parker	Gateshead Council Involvement Officer

In Attendance:

Richard Jenks	LINK Co-ordinator
Kim Newton	LINK Communication and Engagement Officer
Jaime Wilkie	GVOC Administrator

Apologies:

Christine Squires	Resident
Anya Simpson	Development Worker, Gateshead Mental Health User Forum
Steven Scullion	Gateshead Older People's Forum
Angie Maidment	LINK Administrator

Richard Jenks was introduced to the group as the new LINK Co-ordinator.

Dave Wallace offered to Chair the meeting and was accepted by the group.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

4. Alpha Communications – progress update

Kim Newton and Angie Maidment have completed the training from Alpha Communications for the new website/blog. Richard Jenks will complete this at a later date.

8. Co-opted Steering Group Members

Kim Newton has visited with Leonora Hogarth, who will make her decision about joining the Steering Group in May. Tyneside Women's Health are happy for the LINK project to attend their meetings to gather information.

12 & 13. South of Tyne and Wear/LINks joint meeting/An Introduction to Commissioning

These will be followed up by the new Co-ordinator. **Action RJ.**

3. Interim Protocol re Working Relationship between OSC and LINK – Review

It was agreed that this document will be reviewed annually and the word interim will be removed. **Action LINK Staff**

4. LINK Budget - Update

A copy of the LINK budget was handed round. This shows the actual spend and the amount left to be spent. There is an underspend on members attending meetings/events. **Action let KN know of any events/conferences you would like to attend.**

5. LINK Membership - Update

After an overall look at the current membership, the majority of members are female although there are a significant number of members who are groups, therefore LINK is reaching a wider majority than is first seen.

The membership was broken down by interest also with the majority stating 'other'. This will be broken down further at a later date.

6. Working Groups - Updates

Maria Hall provided feedback to the group on representing the LINK at the Health and Social Care Partnership. The Partnership is going through some change now so it is a good time for the LINK to get involved. **Agreed Maria Hall to represent LINK on Health and Social Care Partnership.**

Hospital Discharge Working Group

Discussion took place around fire safety being added to Hospital Discharge procedures. **Action RJ and KN to meet with Lesley Carr and Lyndsey Surtees for initial discussions. Action Maria Hall to provide Working Group with copy of new transfer form (Freeman to QE).**

Mental Health Working Group

This meeting was very well attended. Caroline Wild and Lisa Long, from the Northumberland Mental Health Team, provided a presentation on crisis intervention. A discussion took place around the inequalities that exist within the crisis intervention. **Action KN to confirm with Caroline Wild and Lisa Long the services available for under 18's and over 65's. Action KN to add 'mystery shopping' to agenda for Mental Health Working Group. Action Maria Hall to send information around over 18's with Autism to KN for e-bulletin.**

Reminder that Personalisation Event is taking place on 13th April 2010 at the Swallow Hotel. It is for LINK members and non-members, but places need to be booked.

Residential Care Working Group

Action to be discussed at Away Day.

7. Member Reports

Patient User Carer Involvement Meeting – this was attended by Kay Parker. There will be an informal 'get together' afternoon on 27th May 2010 from 3pm – 5pm at Bewicks Restaurant, Gateshead Council, as a way to break down barriers to information sharing, as part of Gateshead Together Week.

Age Concern – Age Concern and Help the Aged will be merging to create Age UK. This may take a while and whilst it is happening Age Concern Gateshead will keep its name. There will be publicity around the merge available from 6th April 2010.

During the lead up to the General Election, Age Concern will also be working with groups of older people getting their views on what they would like from future Government's. There will be an information session at the end of April, although a space would need to be reserved through Linda Murray.

Cedars School – Dave Wallace and Ethel Donnelly attended Cedars School to see it become the first Trust School in the North East. The event was very good with a lot gained from attending.

Aiming High For Children – Maria Hall attended this Conference at the Marriott regarding Parents in Power.

Gateshead Primary Care Board – Dave Wallace and Richard Jenks attended the first 'open meeting' of the Commissioners. Due to the meeting not being very well publicised only 3 members of the public attended.

Open Event at the QE – Kay Parker attended this event, to look at plans for the new Accident and Emergency services and building. A pilot is currently taking place regarding a consultant being available in Accident and Emergency at all times. A discussion took place around Accident and Emergency and Walk-in Centre options.

8. **LINK Away Day**

The Away Day will take place on 6th May 2010 at the Gibside Hotel, 10am – 3pm. A discussion took place around how the day should be structured, who to invite and what to discuss. **Agreed all Steering Group and 1 rep from each Working Group to attend. Action – members to pass on any ideas for the day to RJ.**

9. **AOB**

No other business was discussed.

10. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will not take place in lieu of the LINK Away Day (see item 8).