

MINUTES

Essex & Southend LINK – Mid Essex Locality Group Meeting

Date and Time: 03.12.08 - 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Location: CHARMS Therapy Centre, Chelmsford

Mid Essex Area Co-ordinator/notetaker: Linda Tubb (LT)
 North East Essex Area Co-ordinator/Observer: Dana Richardson (DR)
 Administrator: Tamanna Hoque (TH)

Attendees: John Saxton (Chair) (JS), Professor Lewis Schnurr (LS), Thelma Nickerson (TN), Nancy Freeman (NF), Judith Wright (JW), Michael Blackwell (MB), Sylvia Beckett(SB), Maureen Henes (MH)

Apologies: Veronica Wiggan (VW), Ken Edwards (KE), Brian Mister (BM), Claire Beattie (CB), Peter Blackman (PB)

1.	Welcome and Introductions		Action
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	Accepted as accurate record.	
3.	Matters Arising	<p>JS observed that minutes had been arriving too late to help participants complete actions and it was agreed that draft minutes would be circulated within seven days.</p> <p>South Woodham Ferrers maternity services problem, which had been raised by a local GP, was being dealt with by a PCT instigated, "Patient Engagement Forum", LS reported. JS – The very tardiness of the PCT response increased the urgency of pursuing the matter vigorously. Action: LS to draft letter to PCT for CEMVO, as agreed to earlier, to make formal request for a timely response. LS - There are two members of staff with responsibility for</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>LS</p>

		<p>dealing with LINK issues. The Trust's existing Patient Engagement Group would like someone from the LINK to attend their next meeting to explain how the LINK will work, so that they can work together in the future.</p> <p>TN expressed concern that there are too many local groups which do not appear to be communicating with each other and there is a risk of duplication of work.</p> <p>TN gave an update on Essex Ambulance (item 6, transport home on discharge). She reported that she will raise the issue at a meeting 5.12.08 and will report to the next meeting. Agenda item for next meeting</p> <p>LT referred to the circulation of addresses/telephone numbers (item 6) and advised that, for legal data protection reasons, contact details of participants will not be circulated. She further advised that a new leaflet is being drafted, which will give participants the opportunity to consent to their details being shared.</p> <p>NF spoke about the rehab unit at Halstead Hospital (item 3). MB confirmed that the PCT will be funding it. It was suggested that a letter should be sent on behalf of Mid Essex and North East Essex LINK asking the PCT for clarification. DR will take the matter to the next meeting of NEE (North East Essex) LINK, before the letter is drafted.</p> <p>NF will bring more information on the Halstead Hospital situation to the next meeting.</p> <p>There was a discussion about Essex Air Ambulance (item 6). LT asked for clarification and it was agreed that a representative from the Air Ambulance will be invited to give a short presentation at the next meeting on how the service operates and how it is funded.</p>	<p>TN</p> <p>LT</p> <p>DR</p> <p>NF</p> <p>LT</p>
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		<p>JS referred to the draft poster that had been produced by Sue Hood. LT advised that CEMVO were in the process of producing a generic leaflet – she will update at the next meeting.</p> <p>JS referred to the Conservative Party statement in support of LINKs, submitted by CEMVO to the last meeting, emphasising that LINKs should keep abreast of all pertinent party political intentions but remain non-partisan.</p> <p>JS – report outstanding from Anne Villegas regarding Broomfield Hospital’s non-compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (item3).</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>LT/AV</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Chairman’s report</p>	<p>JS reported that he had met with two people from the Healthcare Commission at which they explained their role and gave examples of how things worked in the past and how they evaluate information. They also discussed the Annual Health Checks which are co-ordinated by the Healthcare Commission. LINKs are expected to submit reports by April, 2009, in accordance with specified criteria that will support their inclusion in the “checks”. JS expressed concern that information provided by PPIFs had been rated extremely low in the assessments, compared with information from other interested parties.</p> <p>JW stated that she has a copy of the documentation and will bring it to the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that Healthcare Commission should be an agenda item for next meeting, to allow full discussion of their role.</p> <p>JS questioned why the prescriptions issued in a hospital had to be taken to the hospital pharmacy, causing delays and distress for patients and aggravating car park congestion. SB referred to a personal experience of this in Broomfield Hospital and there was general consensus among participants that this is a widespread problem and should be researched. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the countywide group for consideration/action.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>LT</p> <p>JW</p>

5.	Any other business	<p>It was reported that some participants had met the new CE of Mid Essex Hospitals who had reacted favourably to complaints about car parks, promising to attempt to improve their organisation.</p> <p>There was a discussion about GP referrals to hospitals and concern was expressed about the apparent reluctance of some GPs to refer, in particular for at least one category of N MRI scans. It was agreed that the group would ask to see the policy for Mid Essex.</p> <p>LT referred to the countywide group and suggested that, in the absence of the current Mid Essex representative (BM) the group could consider electing an interim representative. This was agreed – LS proposed JW, this was seconded and unanimously agreed. LT agreed to forward details of next meeting to JW.</p> <p>LT agreed to produce a glossary of terms to assist participants.</p> <p>LT asked for clarification on agenda item 5 – Mental Health Services. JS explained that they were expecting a representative from NEE LINK to attend and give a talk on the service. It was agreed this item will go on next agenda.</p> <p>JS thanked JW for CHARMS' hospitality.</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>JW</p> <p>LT</p> <p>LT</p> <p>LT</p>
6.	Date and place of next meeting	Wednesday, 28 th January, 2009 2.00pm-4.00pm Braintree Town Hall	All

Minutes prepared by Linda Tubb 11.12.08
Minutes approved by John Saxton 14.12.08