

Essex & Southend LINK – Mid Essex Locality Group Meeting Minutes

Braintree Town Hall 28.01.09 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Present: Linda Tubb (LT) Mid Essex Locality Area Co-ordinator, Nezda Blyth - Essex Air Ambulance, John Saxton (Chair) (JS), Professor Lewis Schnurr (LS), Thelma Nickerson (TN), Nancy Freeman (NF), Judith Wright (JW), Michael Blackwell (MB), Sylvia Beckett(SB), Claire Beattie (CB), Peter Blackman (PB) (part)

Apologies: Veronica Wiggin, Brian Mister, Rosie Schonenberger, Maurice Booth, Margaret Pearce, Mick Taylor, Tony Parish, Rebecca Keyes (Mid Essex PCT). Des York (Mid Essex PCT)

1.	Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was opened by Claire Beattie as Vice Chair and introductions were made. John Saxton chaired the final session of the meeting.	Action
5.	Presentation on Essex Air Ambulance (Brought forward to allow presenter to leave early.)	Nezda Blyth gave a brief description of the service. She explained the role of the air ambulance for situations where the normal ambulance service would not be appropriate, for example road traffic accidents where access is difficult. The service started in 1998 and they have now reached 10,000 call-outs. As it has over 10 years' experience, the Essex Air Ambulance has now taken the role of helping set up Herts Air Ambulance under its umbrella organisation. Nezda advised that the service is very expensive to run and is funded as a charity through a lottery, which generates about 40% of the income. The Department of Health funds the provision of five paramedics. In response to questions, Nezda explained that the helicopter is leased at a cost of £80,000 per month, which includes the pilot. The Herts helicopter, which came into use in November '08 and is based at North Weald, is also leased. Nezda was asked if any of the costs for attending vehicle crashes was recovered from drivers' insurance. She wasn't aware of the situation but has given contact details for further information.	

3.	Minutes of previous meeting	Accepted as accurate record.	
4.	Matters Arising	<p>South Woodham Ferrers Maternity Services (item 3) – LS advised that he has previously referred the matter to the PCT in writing but has not received a response. Following discussion it was agreed that, as LS is Chair of the Patient Engagement Forum (PEF) at the PCT, MB will represent the Mid Essex Locality Group on the PEF.</p> <p>Essex Ambulance (item 3) transport home on discharge – TN will report to the next locality group meeting.</p> <p>Draft poster (item 3) – JS advised that Sue Hood has not been able to attend the last two meetings. He suggested that the group might want to elect another media rep.</p> <p>Halstead Hospital (item 3) – NF will continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p>Broomfield Hospital situation re Disability Discrimination Act [DDA] (item 3) – LT advised that a letter, explaining the nature of DDA non-compliance within St Andrews unit at Broomfield, had been sent to Louise Hembrough as PPI Lead at Mid Essex Hospitals. However, she has left the Trust and the letter did not appear to have been passed on to her replacement. LT wrote to the CE of the Trust and received a prompt response, giving details of the new PPI Lead. A meeting has been arranged for 3rd February when she will raise the issue.</p> <p>Documentation on Healthcare Commission (item 4) – JW advised not available.</p> <p>Prescriptions issued in hospital (item 4) – JS updated PB on the last meeting when it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Countywide Group as it was felt this issue was relevant to the whole LINK. PB suggested the matter could be included in the Hospital Discharge theme group that has been set up. It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to Mid Essex Hospitals, asking what their policy is.</p> <p>GP referrals for MRI scans (item 4) – LT reported on the response from the PCT. It was agreed that this subject should be widened to include all referrals for scans and LT would obtain more information about funding.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>TN</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>NF</p> <p>LT</p> <p>LT</p>

4 contd	Matters arising contd	Mental Health Services (item 5) – LT advised that she has contacted Reg McKenna who has agreed to give a short presentation at a future meeting. She will provide dates.	
6	Healthcare Commission	JS advised on the process for LINK members to input into the Annual Health checks. LS offered to work on a submission on behalf of the Group. PB suggested that the PCT submission would be relevant to the Mid Essex Locality Group.	
7	Mechanisms for rapid rectification of service failures	JS suggested that the Group should look at ways of passing on concerns and getting information from local NHS/Social Care organisations. There was a discussion on the Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALs) and it was agreed to invite Cheryl Mack from Mid Essex PCT to a future meeting.	
8	County Update	PB updated the Group on the last countywide group meeting and the Essex & Southend LINK launch on 24 th January. He advised that, following on from the launch, all locality groups should now be planning road shows as a matter of urgency to promote the LINK and to determine ways of working, including election of Chairs and Vice Chairs. He explained that a budget of £1,000 was available to each Group. It was agreed to hold 2 road shows (Maldon and Braintree) and SB, CB and JW agreed to form a steering group to plan the events. First meeting 2 nd February at 9 a.m. in the LINK office.	CB/JW SB/LT
12	Date and place of next meeting	The Group did not have time to complete all business on the agenda and it was agreed to carry some items over to the next meeting. A timetable of meeting dates will be produced after the road shows.	

Minutes prepared by Linda Tubb 29.01.09. Received 9.2.09 and approved 10.2.09 by John Saxton.