

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: SOUTH EAST ESSEX LOCALITY MEETING

Date and Time 29th October 2008 2pm – 3.45pm
 Location Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Rayleigh SS6 8BB
 Organiser Aymero Gebremeskel Julie Harkus (minute taker)

Attendees: Harry Chandler, Eddie Camp, Michael Bull, Gordon Browne, Margaret O'Connor, Ron Kennedy, Mary Green, Geoffrey King (Disability Essex), Mary Beckers (OPA), Paul Beckers (OPA), Teresa Jago (Alzheimer's Society), Elaine Blatchford (Patient & Public Voice), Celia Clark (SAVS), Jill Poet (Healthy Life Essex), Beryl Furr (SEE PCT), Cecilia Metzger (SEE PCT), Aline Clayson (Reason-Southend MIND), Peter Stroudley (Southend Carer's Forum), Irene Grubb (Westcliff Resident Association), Alan Grubb (Westcliff Resident Association), Anne Villegas (LINK Project Manager), Aymero Gebremeskel (CEMVO), Wondwossen Tadesse (LINK Knowledge Manager), Rosalind Peek (LINK Policy & Research Manager), Julie Harkus (LINK Project Coordinator)

Apologies: Gill Dawson (LINK Project Coordinator), Mike Wilson, Sydney Smith, Nicky Hart, Gareth Gault, Ros Walker, Linda Cook, Angela Garrard, George Malinowski.

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/ when
1	Welcome & Introductions	Harry welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round robin of introductions took place. Harry explained that this was Aymero's last meeting with LINKs and thanked him for his help getting the locality group off the ground.	
2	Apologies for absence	See above.	
3	Declarations of potential conflicts of interest	Eddie Camp – Governor Southend Hospital Ron Kennedy – non executive Director SEE PCT Beryl Furr – non executive Director SEE PCT Peter Stroudley – Southend Borough Council fund Southend Carers. Harry referred to the paper attached to the agenda – "Reminder of what a LINK is for..." and stated that it would be	

		converted houses and are not DDA (Disability Discrimination Act 2005) compliant.	
5	Why are we here?	As minuted earlier – it was agreed that the paper “Reminder of what the LINK is for” ref: HJC 150908 will be attached to future agendas.	
6	Work Plan and Achievements	<p>The locality group has mainly been involved with consultations so far.</p> <p>i) NHS Constitution consultation – Harry responded on behalf of the Essex & Southend LINK. Of the attendees, only Eddie had read the document. A word version of the response is available from the Southend office. Harry felt that the constitution should be reviewed more frequently than every 10 years and was surprised that NHS employees face no statutory penalty if they quote incorrect information on a job application form, only a duty to be honest and truthful when applying for a job. There is also no statutory duty for employees to provide a clean environment for patient care. A copy of the response is available via CEMVO.</p> <p>ii) Westcliff Primary Care Centre consultation – Our response: Harry commented that the consultation looks fine in principle and appropriate but did question whether the views of residents should be restricted to three services as several residents thought there should be more than three services provided by the proposed primary care centre. A copy of the response is available via CEMVO.</p> <p>iii) Shoebury Primary Care Centre consultation – This was not handled well. Two meetings took place between the PCT and residents and concerns were expressed about access to GP of choice and pharmacies. These sentiments were also expressed by the HOSC (Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee). A copy of the response is available via CEMVO.</p> <p>iv) Access to Psychiatric Services consultation – Margaret responded to this consultation but found the questionnaire too constrictive and answered it more broadly. Margaret expanded on some of the themes in the document – 100 psychiatrists will be based in the south Essex community. Questions were asked about the type of services and whether these should be provided in GP surgeries or out in the community. The PCT put on a consultation evening and Margaret was the only member of the public present – out numbered by many PCT executives. This is an exciting development but it is</p>	

		<p>important to keep an eye on how services are developed and monitored. Rosalind questioned if the PCT were disappointed at the turn out and was informed that a lot of publicity including flyers and radio coverage had been arranged. Margaret will arrange to provide a summary of the response which will be available via CEMVO.</p> <p>v) Transforming the Quality of Dementia Care Consultation – a response was made on behalf of the Essex & Southend LINK. Local people giving case studies had an input. Generally the feeling is that the government has made some good proposals but the quality of NHS care and social care is patchy. Teresa remarked that the publication of the Dementia Strategy has been delayed until mid December. Essex County Council (ECC) and the South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) have met and new dementia teams of nurses and health professionals are to be developed with interviews currently taking place. A copy of the response is available via CEMVO.</p> <p>Harry informed attendees that he didn't want members to be inundated with papers and asked that copies of consultation documents be filed at Nelson Street together with the response so that copies can be made available on request. Wondwossen commented that once the website is set up (by the end of December 2008) these documents can be made available to the public.</p> <p>Peter raised the issue of the number of carers who are concerned about the lack of support to sufferers. Poor care in Clifton Lodge, Westcliff, and Maple Ward, Rochford have seen issues with feeding, cleanliness and personal hygiene. This has been raised with the mental health trust and when Andrew Pike did a whistle stop tour everything was fine at Clifton Lodge. Peter was asked to provide a briefing document for the locality group so that a response can be made to the PCT which will provide the evidence base that is required.</p> <p>Teresa tabled a letter from SEPT about future consultation on the number of Older People Continuing Care beds. Beds are provided in Mayfield Ward Thurrock, Cherrydown Ward Basildon, Mountnessing Court Billericay, Rawreth Court Rawreth and Clifton Lodge Westcliff. Peter remarked that there is currently only 40% occupancy. Mike Waddington from SEPT is leading on this with Mark Tebbs from SWE PCT – the</p>	<p>MO</p> <p>PS</p>
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7	Progress with local involvement	<p>Different ways of involvement and engagement were discussed and Ron suggested that local councillors should be more involved as they represent their local population. Beryl remarked that the strength of LINKs comes from the network engaging with other networks and working directly with local authorities and the third sector was very enabling and won't interfere with the LINKs agenda. It will take time to get established but it is doing well so far.</p> <p>Anne mentioned the official launch of the Essex & Southend LINK on Saturday 24th January at Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford. Local road shows will then take place in February/March in the different localities and these will touch on local issues. Celia suggested an invitation to the SAVS network of members. Eddie commented that at hospital foundation trust meetings he attends, local councillors bring along large groups of residents with them.</p>	GD
8	Membership and Administration	<p>1. A meeting is to take place on 4th November 10am – noon, at the Civic Centre to undertake a mapping exercise and Harry encouraged member involvement. All are welcome. CEMVO staff will also attend.</p> <p>2. Amongst suggestions for the future work plan were: issues to do with the elderly, dementia/mental health issues and access to general practice and other primary care services. All</p>	HC GD HC

		<p>agreed that the work plan needs shape and that involvement with the local population, with CEMVO's help, is vital. It was also agreed that the Chairman and three Vice-Chairmen should lead on this and provide an update at the next meeting. Note: The following was not discussed at the meeting due to a lack of time. The committee had suggested that work plans should be based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The NHS and local government had developed this jointly. The committee believed that a briefing be organised for all members so that they could be made aware of local health and social care needs. Gareth Gault is attempting to make contact with the appropriate people to start the process.</p> <p>3. All agreed that ECC and Southend Borough Council (SBC) social services need to explain their structures and how the locality group can engage with their clients. Members agreed that a training session would be useful to help find out what is already going on in social care.</p> <p>4. Harry gave feedback following the meeting on 22nd October which discussed the structure and the way the group will work. Discussion followed on establishing working groups and the need to have a facilitator, clear objectives and a structure for reporting back. Mary raised the issue of access to evening meetings and different venues. Anne pointed out that the Nelson Street office has 24 – ½ day meetings available for the year as part of the service contract. Establishing an older people's group was discussed and Celia suggested that a representative from the SAVS older people's forum should attend. It was agreed that this committee should meet again and look further at the structure.</p>	<p>HC &GD</p> <p>HC & AV</p> <p>CC</p>
9	Consultations	See item 6 – Work Plan and Achievements	
10	Chair's Report	Already covered in the meeting.	
11	Members' reports	<p>Irene attended the Southend on Sea Scrutiny meeting about children and lifelong learning on 13th October and explained to the group that funding cuts are to be made to Home to School Transport. Irene expressed concern with the possible criteria of using the Disability Living Allowance – that provision of Home to School Transport will only be provided for children whose parents receive higher level Disability Living Allowance in exceptional circumstances. It is planned to investigate further whether this will be appropriate for Southend. It has been identified that some authorities have a provision as part of their Home to School Transport policy. A lot of children with special needs or disability will be put at risk if funding cuts are made. All agreed that Irene should pursue this issue and continue to represent the locality group with speaking rights. If any members have any input please email</p>	

		<p>alangrubb2000@yahoo.com. It was agreed that Eddie should continue to represent the group at the Health & Social Care Scrutiny meeting and that Eddie and Irene should deputise for each other. Eddie will attend the next meeting with Irene and send a report to the office for attachment to the minutes. Note the locality group does not have a similar arrangement with Essex County Council.</p>	EC
12	Host report	<p>Wondwossen explained that he has written a knowledge management strategy and work plan which needs approval by the Countywide group. A database of all members will be set up to allow discussion on the website.</p> <p>The office at 6 Nelson Street, Southend, SS1 1EF telephone: 01702 350479, is now up and running and Sharon Cohen, admin assistant starts on 3rd November. Eventually the computers at Southend and Chelmsford will be linked.</p> <p>Ros starts full time in post on 3rd November and will initially be looking at policy documents for: complaints, expenses and Enter & View. The draft documents will be circulated amongst all members for comment.</p>	WT
13	Any other business	<p>i) Peter requested that SEE PCT provide a report on the number of patients and carers per GP practice and Beryl agreed to do this.</p> <p>ii) Ron, Chair of his GP practice patients group, reported that extended opening hours had been introduced (6.30pm to 8.30pm) for 2 days from 1st October. Only one appointment was DNA – did not arrive.</p> <p>iii) Harry tabled an email from Wendy Eighteen regarding the Patient Experience and Public Involvement group. Harry has been attending these meetings and members agreed that he should continue until January when representation for all committees/groups will be reviewed.</p>	BF HC
14	Date & Place of Next Meetings	<p>26th November 2pm – 4pm at Clarence Road Baptist Church, 6 Clarence Road, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 1AN</p> <p>17th December 2pm – 4pm at Holy Trinity Parish, Rayleigh</p> <p>Gill to check availability of other venues. Margaret suggested that a meeting should take place in Canvey as soon as possible.</p>	GD