

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: SOUTH WEST ESSEX LOCALITY

Date and Time 27th November 2008 6.50pm – 8.40pm
 Location United Reformed Church, Honeypot Lane, Basildon
 Organiser Julie Harkus

Attendees: Charles Novis (locality Chairman), Peter Blackman (Countywide group Chairman), Marlene Moura, Peggy Lane, Robert Spiteri, Stephen Foggo, Rosie Novis, Maureen Dann, Eileen Rossati (Alzheimers Society Basildon), Joy Ellis (ASB), C Lewis (ASB), K Beale (ASB), Lorraine Beauchamp (CK Academy)
 CEMVO Staff: Julie Harkus, Ros Peek, Fahmida Ali
 Guest speakers: Carol Holland NHS SW Essex), Brid Johnson (NHS SW Essex), Mariette Mason (NHS SW Essex), Nick Presmeg (Essex County Council), Lynne Jacobs (ECC)

Apologies: Stan Wynne, Gordon Gambier

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/when
1	Welcome & Introductions	Charles welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the delay in getting into the venue. He gave a brief overview of the South West Essex locality and then introduced Peter Blackman, Chairman of the Essex & Southend LINK Countywide group.	
2	Update on Essex & Southend LINK	<p>Peter explained the history of patient and public involvement from Community Health Councils (CHC) to Patient & Public Involvement Forums (PPIF) to LINKs (Local Involvement Networks) which were established on 1st April 2008. Peter explained the work that was undertaken from March to June and about the public meeting in June 2008 which decided the LINK should work as five localities co-terminus to the PCTs in Essex. The LINK covers a wider concept of health AND social care services but not social care services for under 18s.</p> <p>The official launch of the LINK will be on 24th January 2009 at Anglia Ruskin University and it is hoped that this will attract new people. Five road shows will take place in the localities after this event. The LINK has not been inactive during this time but</p>	

		<p>concentrated on building the organisation, gathering information and responded to consultations. Everyone in Essex is a member of the LINK and people can give as much time as they want but it has not been set up to deal with individual cases.</p> <p>Charles explained that this is the first time that health and social care have been brought together and it is important to develop relationships. Evidence is needed to find the gaps in services and this needs to go to the relevant bodies.</p> <p>A round robin of introductions took place and attendees shared their interests (health/social care).</p>	
3	Guest speakers	<p>Carol Holland – Associate Director Communications NHS SW Essex Carol introduced herself and mentioned that she was new to post. The PCT has set up a citizens panel (represented by a cross section of age, ethnicity etc) and is finding out views. The findings from a recent survey have shown that communications need to be increased and more engagement is required. The Expert Patient Programme is now part of the Communications team.</p> <p>Brid Johnson – Associate Director Quality and Commissioning NHS South West Essex Brid tabled the PCT's new draft strategy which is looking to reduce health inequalities and make services fair and accessible to all. Their vision is one that the entire population will be one of the healthiest in the country and care will be personalised for the individual. There will be more prevention and early diagnosis work. There will be a focus on self care and self management, more information, signposting and support and a focus on medical and technological advances.</p> <p>Brid talked about national and local developments – improved clinical systems, new GP contract, Practice Based Commissioning, Expert Patient Programme, joint budgets and technology. Key areas in development are respiratory disease, diabetes, mental health, stroke, neurological conditions, and heart failure. Brid went on to explain in more detail how the Stroke Service Review was arranging workshops and patient/carer's surveys, improved access to ambulance, hospital and diagnostics and providing rehab services closer to home. It is important that health, social care and the voluntary sector all work together.</p> <p>There is a new education programme for carers – “Caring with confidence” which in 2009/10 will provide funding for “breaks from caring for carers”, an annual health check and sign posting and carers support workers working across the NHS, local authority and voluntary sector.</p> <p>There are challenges to face in order to implement all of these services – NHS organisation restructures, joining up of health and social care, staff training and competencies and information</p>	

		<p>sharing.</p> <p>Nick Presmeg and Lynn Jacobs – Essex County Council Adult Social Care Team for South West Essex</p> <p>Nick explained that his team shared the same geography as NHS South West Essex with the exception of Thurrock. Self Directed Support is currently directing the agenda and this allows a personal budget so that services can be purchased in the community. Nick explained how someone with moderate needs could delay or even prevent the onset of illness by receiving treatment early. Resources are going into preventative services – Nick gave an example of how the new system works. There is more choice and therefore, people have more control over their lives. The challenge for Nick’s team is to establish a more effective older people’s planning group and to develop more community groups by building relationships again.</p> <p>Lynn described how the 6 weeks re-ablement team operate with GPs and community matrons. A joint pilot is being set up to look at how social care interacts with health. Lynn reported how respite care can be provided in many different ways – from purchasing holidays, to stays in B&Bs and seaside hotels. Or care can be provided in the home and someone is paid to stay in the house. It is early days for this new directive which was launched on 6th October. Structure charts of personnel and their positions were circulated.</p>	
4	Questions and Answers	Attendees had an opportunity to ask questions of the guest speakers and these covered accessibility to information at GP surgeries, the review of Older People Continuing Care Beds by South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) and comments about personal experience of social care services.	
5	Chairman of locality group	<p>Charles Novis thanked attendees for their participation and the quest speakers for their informative presentations/talks.</p> <p>Charles talked about possible information events with the local CVS to look at health issues. He explained that the group will have to map health and social care services in the area. The group will be submitting a response to the SEPT consultation mentioned above and Charles asked members of the public if they would like to contribute. Contact details were taken for this to be taken forward.</p>	
6	Date and place of next meeting	TBA	

