

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: WEST ESSEX LOCALITY MEETING

Date and Time Friday 3rd April 2009 – 10:00am – 1:00pm
 Location Council Chamber, Harlow Civic Centre
 Organiser Julie Harkus / Fahmida Ali (Minutes)

Attendees: John Carr – Chairman, Ken Hearn – Vice Chairman, Ann Nutt – Vice Chairman, Mollie Pattenden, Linna Howard, Andrew Smith, Sue Drake, David Bamber, Harriet Carr – West, Conrad Gorinsky, Susan Barker, Philomena Lawrence, Roy Howland, Barbara Blossom, Susan Whitlock, Chris Hudson, David Paget, Heather Paget, Margaret Fitch, Sheila Bass, Jeanette Curtis, Claire Evans, Michael Walker.
 Bill Rammell MP
 Duncan Taylor – Strategy Development Manager, Essex County Council
 Alison Cowie – Director of Public Health, NHS West Essex
 Aidan Thomas – Chief Executive, NHS West Essex

Apologies: Sheila Jackman, Gillian Ramshaw, Leigh Fleming, Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, Eleanor Laing MP.

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/ when
1	Welcome Intro & House-keeping	John Carr welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Bill Rammell MP, Duncan Taylor and Alison Cowie for speaking. John thanked the West Essex Locality members and the support staff from CEMVO (Host). House keeping for the venue was carried out by Julie Harkus.	
2	Previous Minutes 20 th January 2009 & Nomination of Countywide rep.	These were agreed as a true record. John explained the structure of the LINK and that a nomination was sought for representative of the Countywide coordinating group. John mentioned that Ann Nutt had already been elected as an independent representative, but representation was required for the West Essex locality. Margaret Fitch nominated John Carr as Countywide representative and this was seconded by Chris Hudson.	
3	Ratification of appointment of officers	Bill Rammell MP referred to the previous meeting held at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping when nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairmen took place. Bill asked for the nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the West Essex locality to be ratified by a show of hands at the first public meeting. A show of hands confirmed John Carr's appointment as Chairman and Ann Nutt and Ken Hearn's appointment as Vice	

		Chairmen.	
4	Bill Rammell MP – What we can achieve together	<p>Bill Rammell explained that LINK is a progressive organisation giving opportunity for people of the community to get involved and achieve measurable improvements and results in different areas of health and social care. The government has responded with real power allowing LINK; a public decision making process which will allow changes alongside other important reforms. The NHS and Social care need constant cajoling to improve.</p> <p>Question & Answers</p> <p>1. The waiting time in Epping Forest, before referral, is not meeting the 18 week target. How will increased referrals be managed financially?</p> <p>Aidan Thomas explained that last year 2000 patient referrals were waiting longer than 18 weeks and this has now been reduced to 150 referrals. According to a survey conducted by the Department of Health the popularity of the NHS has improved vastly and this success has bought a lot of people back from private healthcare. The current credit crunch could be a contributing factor.</p> <p>2. Is it worthwhile for a long term sufferer to change healthcare provider considering the vast amount of paperwork that can be involved?</p> <p>Aidan Thomas explained that patient records are not all paper based; information can be accessed electronically as the system is gradually improving. Allowing patients' a choice of healthcare provider can lead to better treatment.</p> <p>3. What is contact like with Essex Social Care?</p> <p>Bill explained that contact with Essex Social Care is improving. Patients discharged from hospital will be referred to social care. One participant questioned the financial implications and Aidan replied that the NHS works closely with social care and is always looking to implement measurable forums such as: children centres, adults and special services.</p> <p>4. What area of health service is different from social care?</p> <p>Aidan explained the importance of educating people about social care which can lead to a smoother pathway and LINK can help to integrate the two areas (health & social care). Ann Nutt (who has a wealth of experience in social care) was asked to comment. Ann replied that the 18 week target has greatly reduced waiting time – this is much better than it was 5 years ago. Allowing patient choice can lead to good service though this is often influenced by bureaucracy and administration. Ann explained that social care has undergone numerous changes and restructuring over the years. County Councillor Susan Barker (Chairman</p>	

		<p>of ECC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee) advised that members of the public should approach their councillors regarding any concerns about health and social care. County Councillors deal with individual constituents, education and children.</p> <p>It was mentioned that there is a lot of crossover between NHS and social care and services have improved. However a lack communication still remains and not enough people are aware of services available to them. It is critical for the LINK to respond to this as health and social care need to work together. John mentioned that the West Essex area is making this a priority and communicating with all agencies. Voluntary groups' contribution is also important.</p>	
5	<p>Duncan Taylor ECC & Alison Cowie NHS West Essex on JSNA and the role of LINKs in West Essex</p>	<p>Duncan Taylor explained that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) document allows the local authority and PCT to work together to analyse the demographics of an area in terms of need. JSNA helps identify inequalities across the whole of the West Essex area. JSNA will influence the Essex Strategy for 2008 – 2018 pulling together different strategies and plans. It is therefore crucial that the information is accurate.</p> <p>Alison Cowie explained that NHS West Essex should work with the JSNA in order to meet the needs of the local population as health assessment in West Essex is diverse and different.</p> <p>A measure of life expectancy showed that women lived longer than men in West Essex with significant differences amongst localities and the lowest life expectancy is in Waltham Abbey. The average life expectancy is 85 years in West Essex, though there are significant differences amongst different localities. Statistics showed that life expectancy can be affected by living in a rural or urban area.</p> <p>Further health assessment in West Essex has identified substance misuse, learning disabilities, mental health and smoking to be areas of concern. Obesity, poverty deprivation and the need for immunisation (DoH target 95%) also has an impact on health.</p> <p>Duncan explained that the LINK can feed useful information into the JSNA and the document can be used by the LINK to highlight areas of work.</p> <p>Question & Answers</p> <p>1. How will service users be involved with JSNA and LINKs?</p> <p>The LINK can assist by identifying and directing different groups to input into the JSNA. Together, both can work with data and make recommendations.</p> <p>2. Is there a connection between deprivation and mortality?</p> <p>There is a proven statistical connection between deprivation and mortality e.g. Harlow's high mortality rate is linked to deprivation. Philomena Lawrence stressed the importance of mental health services,</p>	

		<p>social care and drug and alcohol services working together to tackle inequalities. John informed the meeting that a Countywide mental health issue group has been set up to look at drug, alcohol and substance misuse.</p> <p>3. Do children with drug and alcohol problems have parents with similar substance misuse issues?</p> <p>Recent child protection surveys show that there is evidence to support this.</p>	
6	Priorities for the West Essex locality – next years work plan	<p>John stressed the importance of public support for LINKs and asked attendees for suggested topics to help influence next years work plan for the West Essex Locality. The following topic areas were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GP surgeries and health centres in West Essex – conduct surveys regarding patient experience (include those who cannot read and write and those with sight and hearing impairments). - Farming communities (high suicide rates) - Stroke facilities in hospitals including thrombolysis (designated stroke ward now located at St. Margaret’s Hospital allowing quicker access to diagnostics). - Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy services. - Neonatal services (Chris Hudson agreed to submit a response to the Essex Neonatal consultation on behalf of the locality). 	CH
7	Date & Place of Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday 5th May 2009 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Foakes Hall, Stortford Road, Great Dunmow CM6 1DG</p>	ALL

