

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: WEST ESSEX LOCALITY – NEXT STEPS MEETING

Date and Time **Wednesday, 30th July 2008 – 7pm – 9pm**

Location **Green Room, Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow, Essex CM18 7BL**

Organiser **Marilyn Lambert - CEMVO**

Present: Bill Rammell MP (BR), John Carr (JC), Ken Hearn (KH), Mollie Pattenden (MP), Mrs Sheila Jackman (SJ), Gillian Ramshaw (GR), Jackie Sully – Rainbow Services (JS), Linda Ash – West Essex PCT (LA), Chris Hudson (CH), Ian Flack – CEMVO (IF), Anne Villegas – CEMVO (AV), Geraldine Howland – CEMVO (GH), Marilyn Lambert – CEMVO (ML).

Apologies: David Paget, Heather Paget

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/when
1	Welcome, introductions and an update	<p>IF spoke about his role in the Essex and Southend on Sea LINK.</p> <p>IF then introduced Bill Rammell MP - BR said that he was keen to support the Essex and Southend LINK project. He went on to talk about the history behind the decision to abolish Patient and Public Involvement Forums, their accomplishments and also the dedication and commitment of the members involved. He hoped that the legacy of PPIF's can be carried over into the LINK project. BR expressed a concern regarding the structure of LINKs and the difficulties that would be faced in cutting across the boundaries in health and social care. He agreed that LINK is an important process and offered his full support.</p>	

Going on to talk about local issues BR said that one of the biggest concerns is the proposed closure of the GP Surgery in Roydon; this decision was not taken by the West Essex PCT, but taken under worrying circumstances by Hertfordshire PCT. BR is currently working with the various representatives to try and get a GP service in Roydon. The issues around and about borders was spoken about, especially with patients being discharged home from hospital and needing social services input.

The second issue highlighted by BR was about possible ways of regenerating the Barbara Castle Surgery in Harlow. There were concerns about the surgery as there has not been the investment in the property due to it being a council owned property and not the Harlow Health Centres concern. BR has had a series of meetings with the Council and the PCT to look into this issue and to see if something can be arranged for a more appropriate building.

BR went on to speak about Princess Alexandra Hospital and the dramatic reduction in waiting times for patients in receiving treatment, and the hope they can achieve the 18 week target wait by December 2008. JC reported that at a recent appointment the consultant said that he would be seen in 18 weeks, and then within 18 weeks and there seemed to be some confusion. Documents show within 18 weeks, therefore 18 weeks being the maximum wait. BR reiterated that there was an 18 week waiting time in England, double in Scotland and treble in Wales.

BR also spoke about the application for Foundation Trust Status, which will empower people using the hospital to participate in their local hospital and influence services. There are also improvements in infection control; the figures now show that they are one of the most improved hospital trusts. When BR carried out a survey in West Essex 1500 people responded and said they were happy with the hospital and the services it provided..

There was concern surrounding the discharge home of patients from hospital into community care. BR agreed that this is an important and bewildering issue, which could be due to either health or social services, and there is an urgent need to for clearer communication. There is a historical concern relating to the lack of long term care beds facilities in

the area. It is envisaged to increase beds by 100%. SJ reiterated that there is a lack of residential beds in the Epping Forest District also.. BR noted this information as it is not just an issue in Harlow.

West Essex PCT – the latest news is that Alan Johnson, Health Minister recently opened the new hospital at St Margaret's. This is a superb new facility and is reported to be of 5 star standard.

Members of the group expressed concern regarding reassurances on proposals surrounding the Walk In Centre with the anticipated merger with the Accident and Emergency at Princess Alexandra Hospital. It was agreed that the Walk In Centre proposed changes were not well reported in the public domain especially in the media. One of the main improvements would be to have a GP in the centre, as currently it is only a triage centre for the A&E unit. BR felt that the Harlow Walk In Centre is here to stay and the message needs to be put across but in a different way. A member of the group asked about the possibility of a 'Poly Clinic' in Loughton and BR felt as Harlow has the Walk In Centre there is not necessity to have one there.

There is a rapid access facility at St Margaret's Hospital. Elderly patients who would normally attend accident and emergency can attend St Margaret's and receive appropriate care unless there is a clear need for emergency treatment.

CH - There were concerns raised over the boundaries relating to screening and the treatment of patients, the boundaries are 'blurred' therefore leading to patients suffering. BR agreed.

IF thanked BR for attending the meeting, his interest in the project and his valuable contribution to the meeting.

AV welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending.

AV then went on to give a brief update as what CEMVO had been doing.

AV - Staffing – adverts had gone out in the local press, 'Total Essex' and 'Third Sector' publication.

		<p>Locality participants/members will be involved in interview process. AV confirmed that there had been a lot of interest in the 10 posts advertised..</p> <p>AV - Spoke about the Inaugural Meeting held on 28th June in Chelmsford and decisions that came out of that meeting relating to things like the number of offices, staffing, agreement about draft governance and policy documents.</p> <p>AV confirmed that there was a decision made for 2 offices – one in Southend and one in Essex – premises have been viewed and other office will be looked at. Currently the favoured site for the 2nd office is Chelmsford with a rolling programme of outreach work. The office base is really not that important as staff will be expected to travel to LINKs participants, communities and different areas.</p> <p>IF spoke about how the project would be monitored by Essex CC and Southend on Sea BC.</p>	
2	<p>Future ways of working to include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work programme for the West Essex locality group. <p>AV spoke about locality and countywide issues and asked what possible areas of work and what the group would like to be involved with.</p> <p>The issue that has proved to be a priority in the locality and across Essex is neonatal services. A consultation document is due to start in early September and it is expected that this will be taken up by the Countywide group and a sub group formed to look at a countywide response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion followed around areas of work and in particular themed groups to look at and work on particular issues. The group was also asked to consider countywide issues. 	

3	Expressions of interest regarding participation in the countywide group	<p>The group was asked to consider election of a Chair and Vice Chair. Also representative to sit on countywide group. HOSC and PCT and acute representation was also discussed.</p> <p>Nominations received as follows:- John Carr - Chairman Ken Hearn - Vice Chairman</p> <p>It was agreed that this would be for a 6 month period and then it would be reviewed.</p> <p>John Carr will be happy to deal with countywide issues and be the representative on the group.</p> <p>AV to ask Anne Nutt to ask if she is willing to be the Vice Chair .</p>	AV
4	Expressions of interest regarding participation in the launch of the LINK event	This item to be discussed at the next meeting.	
5	Expressions of interest regarding a financial liaison representative for the group	<p>Financial liaison representative –</p> <p>JC nominated KH for a 6 month period.</p>	
6	Vote regarding naming of members of the LINK – members / participants	<p>The following was the decision made by the representatives in attendance regarding the naming:-</p> <p>Members – 6 Participants – 0 No abstentions.</p>	

7	Facilitator / chair for the next meeting	John Carr – Chairman	
8	Venue and timing of the next meeting	17 th September 2008 2:30 p.m. Lecture Theatre, Birchwood House, St Margaret's Hospital, The Plain, Epping, Essex CM16 6TN	
9	Any Other Business	<p>CRB checks only need to be carried out for 'enter and view'. Enhanced checks are carried out.</p> <p>Expenses – sheets available at meeting – ML to send out to members still requiring expenses sheets.</p> <p>LA asked about leaflets being made available. Something simple and easy for everyone to read. An article can be put in staff magazine. And information can be sent to various patient groups via hospitals. JC asked for terms of reference from CEMVO. IF responded.</p> <p>JS – spoke about premises in the voluntary offices to meet. 'Hot desk' facilities are available.</p> <p>SJ - There maybe a possibility of a presentation to the Users Consultative Group for St Margaret's in the near future to inform them about the LINK project.</p>	<p>ML 31.7</p> <p>AV</p> <p>ML/AV/SJ to look into.</p>