

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK

NE ESSEX LOCALITY GROUP MEETING

Date and Time 10/09/08 at 7:00am - 9:00pm

Location St John Highwood Community Centre

Attendees:

Aymero Gebremeskel; Keith Biggar; Reg McKenna; Dhirajlal Karia; Sushila Karia; Nileema ConlonVaswani; Vi Haddow; John Hanney; Linda Canham; Harry Young; Vijay G Vjas; Peter Blackman; Dan Kessler; Jenny Braithwaite, Gillian Ramshaw

Apologies:

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/when
1	Welcome, introductions and update	AG introduced the joint vice chairs Mr Reg McKenna and Mr Keith Biggar of the Essex and Southend Link NE locality Groups and invited participants to introduce themselves before starting the meeting.	-
2	Minutes of last meeting	AG emphasised the problems of sending large attachment to hotmail email addresses after members raised the problem of receiving attachment files. AG asked participants to include Linda Canham's name in the list of attendees from the previous meeting's minutes. Irene Miettinen has been elected as the locality financial representative at the last meeting. This needs to be noted in the minutes.	

3	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Chairman ii. MH issues iii. Advocacy iv. Health and social care consultation v. BME communities vi. LINK launch event 	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>RM informed the meeting about the resignation of the NE LINK chair Hazel Law from the meeting. RM was invited to chair the meeting in the absence of HL. This was agreed by participants.</p> <p>HY suggested that the locality group should address learning disability and mental health issues in the work plan</p> <p>LC highlighted the problem in involving service users with learning disabilities and commented on the lack of support from the health and social care providers.</p> <p>HY informed the meeting about the Patients Commissioning Forum for North Essex PCT This is not open to the public but on the 1st of October there is a meeting and if members are interested they can attend.</p> <p>LC raised tendering situation and asked the chair's opinion. RM stated that there is nothing stopping the NE LINK from looking at the tendering situation in NE area. RM advised the meeting that once the NE LINK becomes strong, we can follow all the tendering issues very closely.</p> <p>Advocacy RM briefed the meeting about the advocacy service in mental health. He highlighted the ongoing review process of mental health advocacy.</p> <p>NCV informed the meeting that the implantation of the review process is in April and said that after April the situation will improve.</p> <p>Health and social care consultations. PB informed that meeting that the county group will respond to the following consultations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex mental health • National dementia care strategy • Strategy in volunteering in health and social care 	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
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4	Update from CEMVO	<p>AG briefed the meeting on what has been achieved since the last meeting in particular regarding establishing an office base and staff recruitment.</p> <p>AG briefed the meeting about the outreach work so far and future engagement and involvement plans. He drew special attention to the work that has been done to involve community organisations, user groups and hard to reach groups.</p>	- -
5	Reaching wider communities	<p>RM emphasised to the meeting, the importance of reaching hard-to-reach communities and about his work in this field. He also highlighted the need for concerted efforts to reach the most isolated communities.</p> <p>DC suggested that the locality group outlined how we can reach hard to reach groups.</p> <p>VJ stated that in regard to the isolated communities, his organisation can provide support to link up with BME groups.</p> <p>RM suggested marketing and leafleting to promote NE locality LINK.</p> <p>SK invited the members to attend the September 28th event in order to meet hard to</p>	- -

		<p>reach groups. KB agreed to attend.</p> <p>JB highlighted the need to involve the younger generation and suggested that NE locality LINK makes contact the youth council, young carers and the young people's advisory board.</p> <p>KB informed the meeting about the D&A reference group meeting at Weeley Council offices. He thinks the government has now given a higher priority to the Alcohol problem and advised NE LINK to take an active role in addressing related issues.</p> <p>RM asked whether there were any plans to publish a newsletter to promote and communicate the LINK's work.</p> <p>PB after a short briefing of his role as a member of the countywide LINK, emphasised the need for an effective communication strategy and the need for LINK newsletter. He then invited members to contribute to the newsletter to cover wider issues.</p> <p>JB also raised the importance of communication and dissemination information to inform the public and suggested the NE locality LINK should explore the use of radio as well as newsletters.</p> <p>PB informed the meeting of the work that has been done so far by the Countywide LINK and informed the meeting about Countywide work in organising publicity via different media including radio and newsletter.</p> <p>He also pointed out that the county group has taken on the task of developing the newsletter and requested members to provide information on the issues affecting a wide range of hard to reach groups, as well as using it as a forum for publicity and information about engagement events. He encouraged members to contribute to the newsletter.</p>	
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6	Work plan/ strategy for next 3-4 months	<p>KB: requested that D&A is a specific item on the work plan</p> <p>Issues raised by members included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing - The starting of the newsletter - Training – to be provided by CEMVO to members - Setting up specialist task groups (see below) 	- -
7	Developing sub groups and special interest areas	<p>KB suggested D&A as a specialist interest area</p> <p>RM suggested setting up a mental health sub group.</p> <p>JB suggested the need to look into the PPIF legacy documents</p>	-

		LD suggested the issue of elderly/ single people as they are not getting fair treatment.	
8	Essex Drug and Alcohol Team Financial Information	<p>KB highlighted the underspend of the Drug and Alcohol rehab budget and proposed to set up a working group to incorporate this into the NE LINK locality group work plan. He also suggested that this could be taken by the countywide group.</p> <p>JB asked whether anyone could be held accountable for the underspend. He suggested that even if the money is not available LINK should raise the issue through the relevant forums.</p>	- -
9	Date and time of the next meeting	<p>It was decided that the next North East Essex Locality Group LINK meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd of October 2008 at 6.30.00 pm to 8.30pm with the venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>Stanway was identified as a possible venue by members and CEMVO will organise the booking</p>	

10th September 2008