

Your LINK for improving health and social care

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a LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK

Attachment to LINK Decision Making Process (Proposal for change)

Note on Priorities Panel decision making model

It may assist the group to be aware of the process which the Priorities Panel is required to use when considering an issue which has been brought to the LINK. This decision making framework is set out in the LINK's Governance Framework. This decision making model has also been the subject of consultation with LINK participants.

The following elements are considered when making decisions:

- a. Structured evidence – information that has some research base, can be verifiable and as far as possible is free from bias - **Weighting 3**
- b. Unstructured evidence – softer information, some of which may be anecdotal but may also be from a range of sources - **Weighting 2**
- c. Can the LINK make an impact in the time available - **Weighting 1**
- d. Is the issue being dealt with by somebody else - **Weighting 1**
- e. To what extent will the community be affected by the issue - **Weighting 2**
- f. Can the LINK make a difference to the current situation - **Weighting 1**
- g. What is the impact on inequalities in health and social care - **Weighting 2**

Each Panel member can award an initial score of nought to three against each of the above elements. For example, an issue that is presented to the LINK which has been well researched may attract an initial score of, say, 2 (the second highest possible) – the weighting for structured evidence is 3, so, $2 \times 3 = 6$. The only converse score is that which relates to whether the issue is being dealt with by somebody else. In this case a low score would indicate that some other organisation was already doing something on the issue. The maximum score for any one issue under the above system would be 36 points.

It has to be remembered that this is only a tool to assist with decision making and to assist in determining relative priorities between issues when resources are finite.

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