

Kent Local Involvement Network – Kent LINK

July 2008 – Newsletter

www.kent.gov.uk/localinvolvementnetwork

Introduction

This newsletter is written to update all stakeholders on the situation with regard to the establishment of a Local Involvement Network in Kent. The previous newsletter was distributed in May.

Appointing an Independent Organisation to Host the Kent LINK

Kent County Council is happy to announce that the Host Organisation which has been appointed to support the Kent LINK is Kent and Medway Networks (KMN). KMN have previously been a Forum Support Organisation for the former Patient and Public Involvement Forums. They, therefore, have a wealth of knowledge and experience to bring to the role of Host Organisation. KMN have recently also been awarded the Medway LINK Host Organisation contract. They will be taking over the support of the LINK Working Group from Kent County Council in August.

Kent & Medway Networks (KMN) are delighted to have been awarded the contract for the Host Organisation and look forward to working closely with the LINK Members and Participants in the Kent area. Full contact details for KMN are as follows:

By Post: Kent & Medway Networks Ltd
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Folkestone Enterprise Centre
Shearway Road
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Kent
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The KMN office is open from 8.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday each week. A voicemail system is available for use should the telephone line be engaged on another call or for messages out of office hours.

New items on the Kent LiNK website

The website (see link above) now includes the terms of reference for the LINK transitional working group and a copy of issue 8 of Opinion, the magazine of

the Kent resident's panel. This issue details the resident's panel survey undertaken about the introduction of LINK.

NCI Website

As noted in previous newsletters, The Department of Health has asked the NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI) to be the lead organisation for supplying advice and guidance about LINKs. As the guidance is added to on a frequent basis, this newsletter again reproduces the link to the website.

There are three strands of work taking place:

- practical advice, guidance and support;
- voluntary and community sector fieldwork; and
- LINKs Exchange (IT portal)

There is a range of guidance materials available via the NCI website www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk.

Additionally, the NCI now produce the LINKs Bulletins on behalf of the Department of Health, and these are available via the link above.

Transitional Arrangements/ Working Group

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, a working group has been set up to look at the LINK governance arrangements. This group has now met twice and is due to meet in early July. The group continues to work on a model for the LINK and governance arrangements.

Regional News

The Next Newsletter will be produced by Kent & Medway Networks.

Please forward on this newsletter wherever possible, and get in touch if further information is required. Our newsletters are also made available via our website.

Should you require further information about any issues raised in this newsletter, please contact Mary Blanche:

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