



**Kent LINK External Representatives
Meeting Report**

Name of LINK Representative	Cate Jackson
Name of External Organisation	Kent Community Healthcare Trust (KCHT)
Name of External Group	Leagues of Friends of Community Hospitals Pan Kent (LoF)
Name of lead contact of External Group	Attended by invitation of John Ashelford
Date of Meeting	1 July 2011
Venue of Meeting	Board Room, Preston Hall, Maidstone
Summary of Meeting (If appropriate attach papers)	<p>Meeting initially planned for Board room on First floor; no lift in building, because of my inability to climb stairs... Interim Director of Nursing, Sue Baldwin, informed meeting of difficulties and meeting moved to Ground floor (receptionist extremely apologetic as had not been informed of any difficulty).</p> <p>Present were representatives of KCHT under the eye of Marion Dinwoodie, the CEO, who jointly presented to the representatives of the LoF the new structure and hopes of the organisation. The basic thrust was by Marion who explained that the Trust were trying to make sure that Community Hospital beds were used for the right reasons, so that acute beds were not tied up by recuperation, respite etc. This did mean a cascade of finances from the acute to the community hospitals and from there to the home locations; completing the circle that if the home location service, district nurses, community matrons, specialist nurses etc were made more available, part of the ethos of the KCHT, then fewer would be admitted into the Acute hospital in the first place.</p> <p>The presentation by Marion was based on her previous experiences in different hospital placements.</p> <p>Further presentation was made by two members of the Board, both practitioners, Mark (?) who had previously been West Kent and Sue Baldwin previously East Kent.</p>

	<p>Marion commented that maintaining the East and West cultures led to scant progress, it was important to consider the whole. Representatives present were from the L of F of Community Hospitals, but the representation was from the West, Marion joined by Gill Sainsbury and M Sawbey, queried whether the rest of the L of F in the county had been invited, mentioning by name the Whitstable and Tankerton LoF representative, who was also the SE Representative for the national Board, Margaret Walker, this was not fully addressed by the Chair, Michael (?).</p> <p>When the meeting was opened to verbal reports and points from the other LoF present, it became apparent that the protective nature of status quo existed; everyone wanting their own Community Hospital to stay their own. I felt there was animosity between those who were perceived to be receiving more finance and those who felt hard done by. At one point it was stated that X hospital was taking away from Y hospital, and it wasn't fair! I asked whether the larger practices, such as the Whitstable/ Chestfield / Estuary practice would be in direct competition with KCHT, for provision of treatment etc. This was affirmed by Marion. I felt my input was treated with some cynicism as I was 'from the East'.</p>
<p>Recommendations / Actions eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items for LINK bulletin • Items for individual interest group • Issue to Priorities Panel / Governors' Group 	<p>Kent LINK could have a formidable role in the coalition of the LoF in Kent. There is a need for a proactive movement of LoF to maintain the best standard of 'care in the community' over the whole of Kent. I would suggest that with the help of Marion Dinwoodie and Margaret Walker we should provide a formal meeting of all concerned with each LoF enabling each to give a short presentation on their league, but also with a top of the range outside Kent LoF, so that all can move towards the best practice. From fund raising to provision of equipment and actual beds to staff, all are assisted by LoF, they important partners in health and social care.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	

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Recommendations / Actions

For Office Use Only	Recommendation / Action	Date of Action Taken	Who By
	<p><i>Kent LINK set up meeting with MW and MD to discuss the support and help available for the proactive force of L of F in Kent to enable best practice throughout the County.</i></p>		