



**Kent LINK External Representatives
Meeting Report**

Name of LINK Representative	Cate Jackson
Name of External Organisation	Kent Brokerage Network
Name of External Group	
Name of lead contact of External Group	Des Sowerby
Date of Meeting	30 June 2011
Venue of Meeting	International House, Ashford
Summary of Meeting (If appropriate attach papers)	<p>There was not an agenda; points which were to be covered were written by Des Sowerby on a flip chart. There were nine people present including myself.</p> <p>I still could not work out exactly why Kent LINK had been asked to provide two external representatives. I made the point again. This small group, some different from last time, appears still to be a disparate group of brokers, trained by BTI (?) through Signpost, seeking to offer their paid for services to individuals from mental health. The Group is headed by Des Sowerby (National Brokerage Network, NBN), supported (and funded for meetings) by Katy Bell of Signpost Kent, and is mostly concerned at present with brokerage for mental health. The group still appeared to be commercial Brokers, whether or not they were part of a named organisation.</p> <p>The main thrust of their discussions on this occasion, apart from the disappointment at not seeing / receiving any feedback from the KCC project they had all been involved with (again: there was great annoyance from the group that the East Kent Brokerage Project, under Naomi Milldine, had faded and finished and that all communication from KCC had stopped). Concerned accreditation to a larger organisation and after deliberation I think NBN was chosen, meaning membership fees, as a professional accreditation.</p>

	<p>It was suggested by a participant in the group that as Kent LINK held regular events county wide “that the LINK could do something about Brokerage” for information and to educate the public about Brokerage. For my part :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I suggested that perhaps Kent LINK could help in finding out what had happened to the Brokerage pilot report of East Kent by contacting James Lampert of KCC FSC • I offered the facilities of the Bulletin to try and attract other brokers within Kent to the next meeting so that the base for the organisation was broader than just Mental Health (it would appear I am to word it for although deemed a “good idea”, nobody volunteered!) <p>The meeting (the 7th!) was not constituted, had not organised officers and not actually decided what it was there for. Chair led, the main thrust appeared to be affiliation, at a personal cost to everyone there.</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>Last meeting, both of the representatives tried to ascertain function and role, as well as trying to find out exactly what brokerage was, to see if its description would seem less intimidating and formal, this time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was armed with my own definition taken from the NBN site, all present thought it was a good definition and wanted to know where I had found it, on the site of the organisation they wish to affiliate to • Kent LINK could help in finding out what had happened to the Brokerage pilot report of East Kent by contacting James Lampert of KCC FSC • I offered the facilities of the bulletin to try and attract other brokers within Kent to the next meeting , 29 September 2011, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at International House in Ashford, so that the base for the organisation was broader than just Mental Health (it would appear I am to word it for although deemed a “good idea”, nobody volunteered!). <p>So I suggest: Are you in the role of helping people plan and organise any support they need but are neither a Care Manager nor a service provider....then come and meet together on 29 September from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at International House, Ashford - RSVP (can they use KMN?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Brokerage in Events programme...I am not sure I could fully support this unless the group is better organised, as I am still not certain they themselves know what they want out of the group.

Date of Next Meeting	
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For office use only

Recommendations / Actions

<i>For Office Use Only</i>	<i>Recommendation / Action</i>	<i>Date of Action Taken</i>	<i>Who By</i>
	<p>A) Find out how Request for Representative was phrased (This is their sixth meeting!)</p> <p>B) Discover what a Broker is and the definition of Brokerage.</p> <p>C) There are LINK participants in the Group, contact may be better through them, although obviously it would mean wearing two hats.</p> <p>D) If membership of this group is purely commercial, ie how do we get paid? Commissioned? And with very little reference to the individual that needs the service, is it a bona fide group for the LINK to be attached to.</p> <p>E) Ask KCC FSC about Pilot Report on Brokerage in East Kent through James Lampert who was/is involved with the research as the contact Naomi Milldine has not been responsive.</p> <p>F) Publish details of the next meeting of Group through Kent LINK to try and broaden the Brokerage base.</p> <p>G) Consider putting Brokerage on the "Agenda" for a Kent LINK event....this I would support if the group is more proactive and more cohesive.</p>	<p>I have not received any feedback from Governors or KMN on the previous queries so have re submitted them (A-D) and added to them.</p>	
Name			
Date			