



**Kent LINK External Representatives
 Meeting Report**

Name of LINK Representative	Roger Kendall
Name of External Organisation	Department of Health
Name of External Group	SELLNET
Name of lead contact of External Group	Peter Rush
Date of Meeting	21 March 2011
Venue of Meeting	Shaw House, Newbury
Summary of Meeting (If appropriate attach papers)	<p>On Monday, 21 March 2011, I attended a meeting of the Department of Health South East Region to inform local LINKs leaders (SELLNET) of progress in implementing the various changes envisaged in the Bill.</p> <p>We received presentations from the SHA (Strategic Health Authority) which will be replaced by PCT Clusters in April 2012 and by the South Central Compliance Officer of the CQC (Care Quality Commission). The reason for their interest is that HealthWatch England which will be the central advisory body for HealthWatch will sit as a separate committee within CQC. In the final session there was much discussion about how local HealthWatch in each local authority (LA) or grouping of local authority areas would evolve.</p> <p>It is important to realise that unlike the present arrangement where the local authority commission a host to set up the LINK under the new proposals the local HealthWatch will be a corporate body in its own right with power to employ and pay staff and pay for services. It may subcontract these functions in the same way as any other company. It is likely that LA's will need to take into account procurement regulations to do so and will require a minimum of six months to complete the tendering process.</p>

	Whilst there is every hope that the present Kent LINK will become local HealthWatch there is no guarantee that KCC (Kent County Council) will commission them for all or any of the required functions.
Recommendations / Actions eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items for LINK bulletin • Items for individual interest group • Issue to Priorities Panel / Governors' Group 	
Date of Next Meeting	

Signature  **Date:** 22 March 2011

Recommendations / Actions

<i>For Office Use Only</i>	<i>Recommendation / Action</i>	<i>Date of Action Taken</i>	<i>Who By</i>