



**Kent LINK External Representatives
Meeting Report**

Name of LINK Representative	Ray Harris
Name of External Organisation	Kent Community Health NHS Trust and the Voluntary and Community Sector
Name of External Group	-
Name of lead contact of External Group	Charlotte Baker
Date of Meeting	15 September 2011
Venue of Meeting	Salvation Army Centre, Union Street, Maidstone
Summary of Meeting (If appropriate attach papers)	<p>Papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • List of attendees • Slides presented • Kent partners compact refresh 2011 • Map showing Kent Community Health NHS Trust centres <p>The three Kent Community Health NHS Trust (KCH) speakers, David Griffiths, Marion Dinwoodie and Wendy Head, outlined how KCH is working with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and how they hoped to improve on their partnership in the future. Marion Dinwoodie stated that KCH had some 5000 staff and a budget of £200million. The Trust is required to make efficiency savings of £14million (8% of the new budget). Income mainly derives from block contracts which suffers a reduction now of 1.5% (£2.6million) owing to pay uplifts and high cost drugs.</p> <p>The objective is to offset this by both office savings and increased productivity. Also mentioned was that Kent nurses spend about 45% of their time with patients compared to the national average which is 22%. David Griffiths stressed the need of feedback, from all sectors, good and bad, so that KCH could amend its procedures if appropriate.</p>

	<p>Some nine questions were put by the floor; these mostly centred around funding and future financing of the VCS. In response, the KCH said that the VCS had a poor understanding of how funding operated.</p> <p>During group working, my group, which consisted of VCS frontline staff, voiced their problems with contacts ie who to contact, unreturned calls and problems with contracts.</p> <p>They were also sceptical about the future working of the partner's compact. Members of the group felt that KCH staff regarded them in an unfavourable light.</p> <p>Part of the slide presentation required the audience to signify their answers to the five questions included in the paper version, part of those papers noted above. I have listed the % answers given, you will see that in Question 1 the VCS had a poor opinion of how the NHS worked with the VCS.</p> <p>I left the meeting feeling that there is a long way to go before the NHS and VCS form an effective and satisfying partnership.</p>
Recommendations / Actions eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items for LINK bulletin • Items for individual interest group • Issue to Priorities Panel / Governors' Group 	<p>Suggest putting comment in the Bulletin about the partnerships between the NHS and the VCS and the importance of this working on the health and wellbeing of many people with little or no voice in the scheme of things; the hard to reach group.</p>
Date of Next Meeting	Not known

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>
Name			
Date			