

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and Kent LINK

Briefing paper for February 17th LINK Governor meeting

Progress to develop a supportive and mutually beneficial relationship between NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and the Kent LINK is well underway.

The Memorandum of Understanding is in place, with LINK representatives on the PCT Board as well as on the Patient Experience Sub-Committee. Work will be on-going to ensure that these roles fulfill their potential for both parties. A number of workstreams are also underway that aim to develop areas of joint interest to ensure the PCT is fulfilling its requirement to engage with the LINK.

As part of those workstreams NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent is keen to make sure that wherever possible and appropriate it is using the LINK to inform its decision making. To ensure that the PCT is being held to account by local people who can be independent, critical friends and to minimize duplication it would like to explore the practicalities involved in establishing an NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent specific sub group within the Kent LINK.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent is keen to offer resources to support such an initiative and is in the process of identifying a way to make some available.

At this stage it would be most helpful to invite the LINK Governors to consider the implications of establishing a sub-group such as described above.

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