



Extract from the LINK's Governance Framework

Section 6 – Declaration of Interests

Introduction

1. LINK participants should act and be seen to act with the highest standards. They have a statutory responsibility to declare all conflicts of interest where they may have a financial interest in a decision or activity of the LINK.

Declaring an interest

2. Kent LINK participants should not use their association with the LINK to gain media or public attention in order to advance their personal, business or political interests.
3. Under the regulations LINK participants must ensure that they declare all conflict of interests where they may have a financial interest in a decision or activity of the LINK, or any personal or business interest that might lead others to conclude that their decision about the work of the LINK could have been influenced by it. For example, if the partner of a Kent LINK participant is an Accident and Emergency (A&E) doctor and A&E services are being reviewed, it would not be considered appropriate for that participant to influence the outcome of the review, or the recommendations.
4. Also Kent LINK participants should not accept gifts or hospitality from a third party which might reasonably be seen to compromise their personal judgement or integrity.

Relevant interests

5. Relevant interests to be declared include the following (not an exhaustive list):
 - paid employment, directorships or partnerships if they relate to health or social care companies or organisations or public bodies
 - paid consultancies or advisory positions if they relate to health or social care companies or organisations or public bodies

- paid commissioned work for a health or social care company or organisation or related activity or speaking engagements which do not form part of official duties
- positions held as an office-holder or trustee within
 - a voluntary or not-for-profit organisation
 - a public body
 - a pressure group or trade union relating to health or social care
- membership or fellowship of a body within health or social care other than the Kent LINK
- the employment or other financial interest of a spouse, partner or close relative which could reasonably be regarded as relevant to the LINK, for example, relating to a health or social care company or organisation or public body
- other support received from a healthcare company or organisation, eg sponsorship such as grants, bursaries, fellowships or awards
- if a LINK participant has a formal complaint or is in the process of taking legal action against a health or social care organisation and the LINK is reviewing that particular part of the service
- any other relevant interests, for example, depending upon their significance, other trusteeships, unpaid functions, membership of voluntary organisations, the non-financial interest of a spouse, partner or close relative.

Conclusion

6. Participants of the Kent LINK are operating in the public domain and representing local groups. It is important that participants conduct themselves in a proper manner which will stand up to public scrutiny. By following the requirements in this LINK governance framework of any interests that could possibly conflict with their role in the LINK, LINK participants will be able to meet the standards expected of them.
7. A form for declaring interests is being produced.