

How is the Kent LINK supported?

Kent County Council (KCC)



The LINK
Administrative
Team

KCC has the responsibility to ensure that Kent gets a Local Involvement Network - the Kent LINK. In July 2008 it contracted with a local experienced organisation to set up and support the LINK in its work for the next three years. Through a performance management framework KCC will ensure that KMN not only fulfils its contract with them but that the people of Kent have a LINK that is able to represent the public's views when decisions about local health and social care services are made.

knowledge gives KMN a good foundation for working with the Kent LINK and its participants.

Since July a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to enable a Kent LINK to be set up, culminating in the launch of the LINK on 3 December 2008.

Structurally, KMN is a flat organisation with three Directors who oversee the day to day business of setting up and supporting the LINK and undertaking some of that work themselves.

Three LINK Development Workers have been recruited to work in their local communities to recruit participants to the LINK and to ensure that those who are traditionally not heard have a voice in the LINK.

Supporting the Development Workers is a small administrative team based in Folkestone.

The whole KMN team is shown on the page opposite.



The LINK
Development
Workers

Kent & Medway Networks (KMN)

KMN has a successful history of supporting Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums in Kent, Medway, Surrey and Sussex. Prior to this all KMN Directors were former Chief Officers of Community Health Councils (CHCs) throughout Kent. All of this background and



The KMN
Directors

Comment from Brenda O'Neill:

"We are delighted to have been given this unique opportunity to be part of a new era of patient and public involvement. The Kent LINK will help more people to influence how health and social care services are delivered in Kent. We are looking forward to the LINK getting off the ground, to working with the volunteers who give their time and effort, using their experiences and skills to bring the public views to the attention of those responsible for managing and delivering those services. All of us - the Kent LINK, the NHS and Social Services, KCC and KMN - have one common aim. That is to ensure that the best possible health and social care services are available to those who need them. We look forward to working with everyone to achieve this aim."



Brenda O'Neill
KMN Company
Secretary and
Contracts
Manager