



# East Kent Community Engagement Event

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Despite the cold, damp weather, the Kent & Medway Networks (KMN) team was pleased to see that attendance at our event on 10 November 2009 was very encouraging. Local statutory and community organisations displayed information and promoted their work in the East Kent community, including Porchlight, Skillnet, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Falls Prevention Service, MCCH, Rethink, Age Concern and many more. Around 60 people attended the formal LINK meeting and heard about the work of the Kent LINK.



Discussing the Big Care Debate

The evening began with a networking opportunity and refreshments, which allowed the public, LINK participants and local organisations to meet one another and find out more about East Kent's local health and social care services. The formal meeting began with a report from the LINK's Governors which gave an overview of the LINK's work in the last quarter of 2009. The Priorities Panel report was presented and included information about the projects and pieces of work they have dealt with over the last three months. The report is available on request from KMN (see page 8 for contact details).

The Kent LINK then hosted a local Big Care Debate which sought local people's views on the Government's Green Paper about reforming Adult Social Care in England. All comments and information was collated and an independent response written. 39 people representing 22 organisations contributed to the Big Care Debate and the LINK's formal response was submitted to the Government on 13 November 2009. This can be viewed online [www.thekentlink.co.uk](http://www.thekentlink.co.uk) or by contacting KMN (see page 11 for contact details).



Rethink promoting their work in the community

The Kent LINK holds its events in different locations each quarter to ensure people can attend from different parts of the County and promote the LINK to hard to reach members in the community who would not normally know about the LINK. These events also provide information and updates from the LINK's Governors and Priorities Panels and to give LINK participants the opportunity to formally raise issues and concerns relating to health and social care services in Kent.

The next quarterly event will be held on Thursday, 25 February 2010 in West Kent. Further information will be on our website and in our bulletins in the New Year.