



**Draft minutes of a meeting of the Kent LINK Priorities Panel held on
10 February 2010 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm
at the Salvation Army Centre, 74 – 80 Union Street, Maidstone, ME14 1ED**

Present:

Ray Harris
Robin Ridsdill-Smith
Junetta Whorwell
Lyn Gallimore
Douglas Tutton

Also present:

John Fletcher, Chair of Governors, Kent LINK
Sophie Swain, Kent LINK Project Worker
Alex Burnand, Kent County Council
Graham Hills, KMN Operational Director, Kent LINK

Opening of meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Ram Appadoo, John Forrest, David Dye and Cate Jackson (the Kent LINK Governor responsible for liaising with the Priorities Panel).
2. **Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of Group**
It was unanimously **agreed** to appoint David Dye as Chair and Lyn Gallimore as Vice Chair of the Panel for a period of one year (or until the Panel come up for re-election). This appointment was made subject to David Dye being agreeable as he was absent at the meeting. It was also **agreed** that clarity was required regarding the length of office of the Priorities Panel members and that the Governors should be approached to verify this.
3. **Declaration of interests**
 - 3.1. There were no declarations of interest made.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 January 2010.**
 - 4.1. Accuracy:
A question was raised as to whether 'prioritise' was the right word to use in item 2, line 13 of the previous minutes and this generated discussion which covered some of the questions raised in the Chair of the Governors' report. It was noted that the danger of some issues being dealt with by KMN in the first instance was that the host organisation may become politicised and that through submitting issues for

consideration by the Panel as a whole, LINK participants can be assured that their issues will be dealt with an objective way. Those issues which there may be some question as to whether the LINK can have an impact will be dealt with accordingly by the Panel. A need for a mechanism to report issues which the Panel may not need to see was identified. Issues which go to the Panel must be defined effectively in terms of what the LINK is being asked to do. Ray Harris's function as a 'facilitator', having sight of issues in advance and requesting additional information or raising questions should help with this.

4.2. Actions arising

4.1.1 Ref item 2 of the last minutes – a verbal update was provided as to Ray Harris's function in viewing issues in advance of the meeting and it was noted that two new items had been sent over to him for feedback since the last meeting.

4.1.2 Ref item 4 of the last minutes – a verbal update was provided as to the existing status of each of the issues.

Items for decision / action

5. To consider existing referrals to the Panel

5.1. ID 023: Ethnic Groups not registering with GP's (*Attachment 1*)

It was noted that if individuals are not registering then it is impossible to know the full extent of the problem, but was agreed that further information could have been useful in considering this issue. It was recommended that further publicity of this issue and the importance of registering with a GP could be generated through use of LINK bulletin, local authority publications and fed into BME networks on which the LINK has existing representation.

5.2. ID 024: Insufficient quality of Retinal Screening Service (*Attachment 2*)

It was recommended that the PCT should be informed that a particular GP is being uncooperative resulting in this issue, and that Paula Carr are liaising with community venues to establish a new location for the service.

5.3. ID 026: Inadequate mental health provision to support rough sleepers and homeless people (*Attachment 3*)

It was recommended that this issue should be taken forward to the Kent LINK Governors to draw the problem to the attention of the commissioners of NHS and social care services for people suffering with ill mental health.

6. To consider new referrals to the Panel

6.1. ID 030: Shortcomings in the availability of health information for blind and partially sighted people (*Attachment 4*)

It was recommended that Kent Association for the Blind be contacted to find out about the provision of Braille and interpreters to support access to healthcare for blind and partially sighted people and to ensure that all of their members are aware of their entitlement to a Nomad box from their pharmacy. The Panel also recommended contact being made with local PCTs in order to find out what

alternative formats they provide their healthcare material in for blind and partially sighted people and whether they incorporate this consideration when producing impact assessments.

6.2. ID 031: West Kent NHS Transforming Community Services proposal *(Attachments 5 a, b and c)*

Although the Panel thought the proposal had great merit and agreed that a precedent had been set in this work having already been carried out in the East of the county, it was recommended that LINK decline the request to carry out this piece of work on behalf of NHS West Kent in view of the limited amount of time available. It was agreed the LINK promote the consultation, provide representation at the various workshops / events via the LINK's Bulletin and encourage LINK participants to get involved in the consultation instead.

6.3. ID 032: A User's Perspective of Day Centres in East Kent *(Attachment 6)*

The Panel recommended that this proposal be taken forward as a LINK project subject to the Governors' Group finding suitable resources.

6.4. ID 033: Bedside Entertainment at Darent Valley Hospital *(Attachment 7)*

It was **agreed** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

6.5. ID 034: Medication in Care Homes for Older People *(Attachment 8)*

It was **agreed** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Items for discussion

7. Priorities Panel Briefing from Chair of Governors' Group *(Attachment 9)*

This was circulated in advance of the meeting and some of the points raised were used as the basis for discussion at the beginning of the meeting.

8. LINK Quarterly Event on Thursday 25 February at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge

It was noted that following negotiation the consultation on car parking charges has been extended to enable feedback from this event to be taken into account. It was **agreed** that the Priorities Panel report for the event would be circulated to David Dye, as Chair of the group, for sign off in advance of the event.

Items for noting

9. Date of the next Priorities Panel meeting

It was **agreed** that the meeting would remain the second Wednesday of the month for the duration of 2010. The following date and venue was **agreed** for the next meeting:

Wednesday, 10 March 2010

Salvation Army Centre, 74-80 Union Street, Maidstone ME14 1ED

2.00pm – 4.00pm