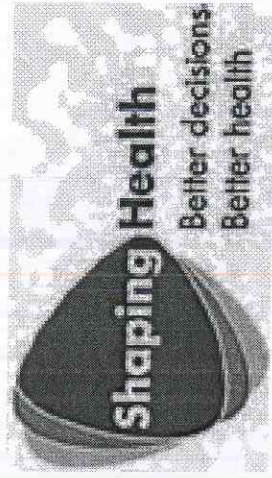


Local Involvement Networks (LINKS) Explained

August 2007

Where have Local Involvement Networks come from?

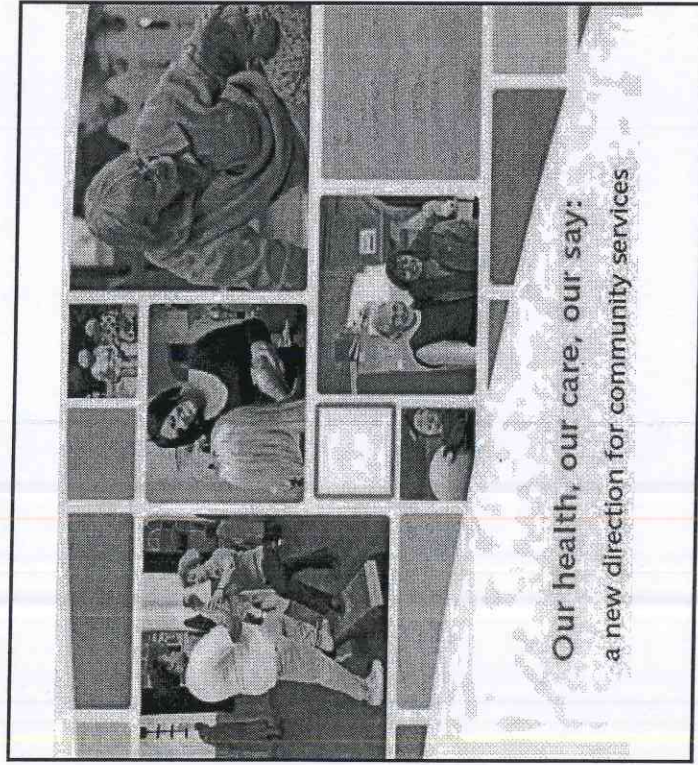


In 2003, the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health was set up.

Their job has been to support different ways for people who use health services to have a say about how those services are run.

They support Patient Forums. There is a Patient Forum in each NHS Trust.

Where have Local Involvement Networks come from?

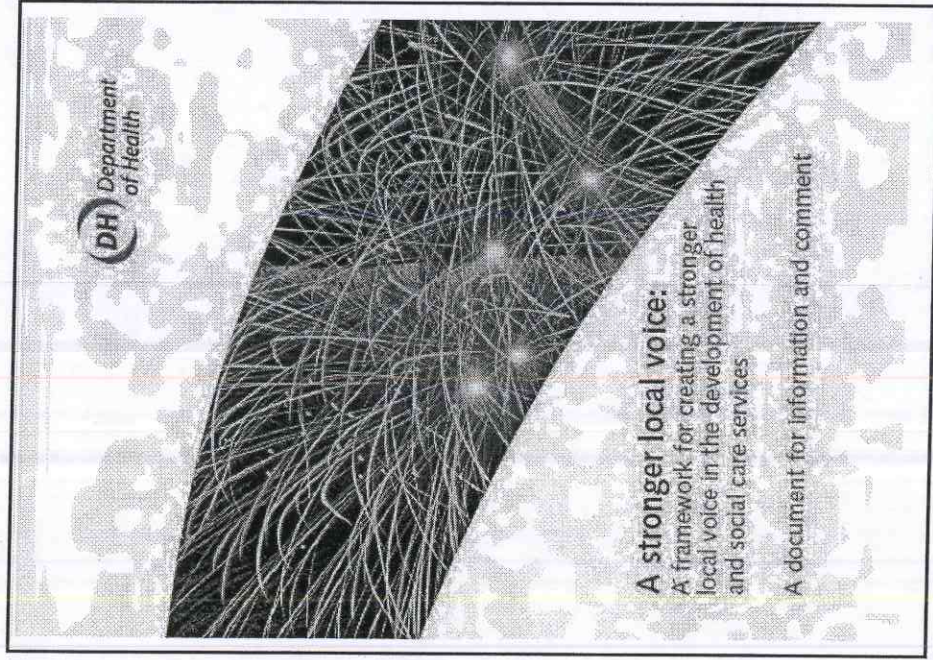


Our Health, Our Care, Our Say Health and Social Care White Paper 2006

People should have, 'more choice and a louder voice' about the services they get.

Both health and social care services.

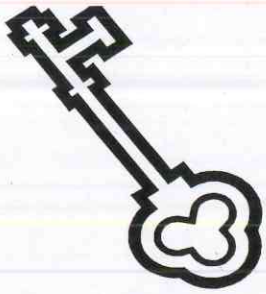
Where have Local Involvement Networks come from?



A Stronger Voice July 2006

New ways for people who use health and social care services to have a say in how they are planned and run.

This includes new **Local Involvement Networks** – or **LINKs**.

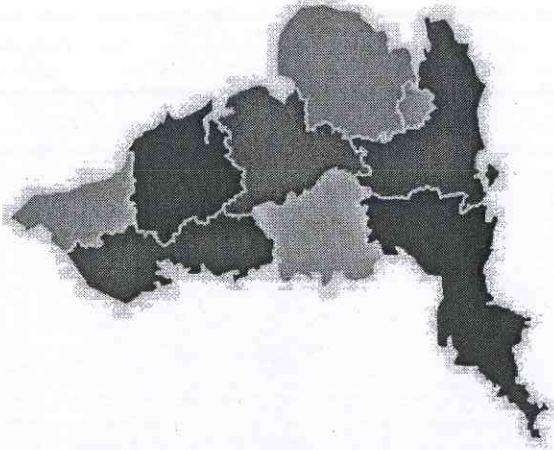


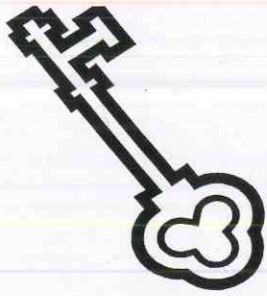
Key facts about LINKs

LINKs will replace Patient Forums.

The Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health will close.

There will be a LINK in every Local Authority area (that is responsible for Social Services).





Key facts about LINKS

LINKS will be a network of people and organisations or groups. They will be able to represent the views and ideas of lots of different people.

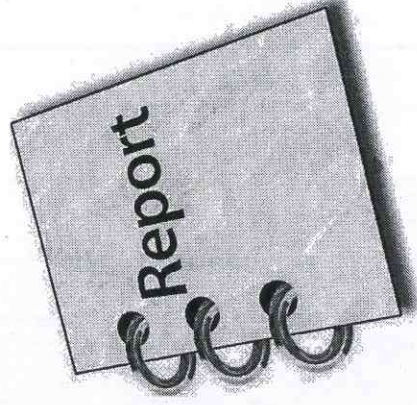
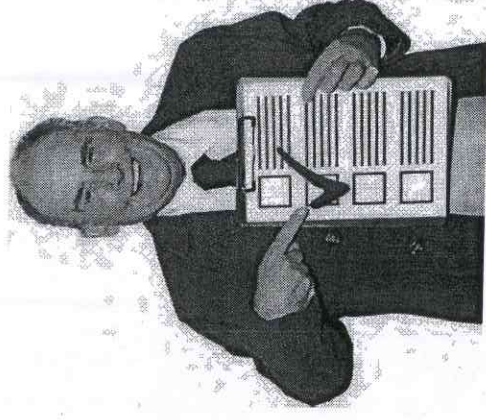


They will not take over from groups that work at the moment. They should be able to make it easier for groups to have their say about local services.



What will LINKS do?

- ✓ Give people the chance to say what they think about their local services – what is working well and what is not so good
- ✓ Give people the chance to check how care services are planned and run
- ✓ Feedback what people have said about services so that things can change for the better



Who can be part of a LINK?

LINKs must be **Diverse** – they must be able to represent all of the different groups and types of people that make up the local population.



LINKs will need **strong leaders** and **clear structures** so that everyone knows who is responsible for what. LINKs will also need to be **trustworthy and reliable**. Local people will need to be able to see that what they say is being **listened to**.



What Powers will LINKs have?

LINKs will have special powers so that they can say how local services should improve. They will be able to:

Make reports and recommendations and get a reply within a set amount of time.



Ask for information and get a reply within a set amount of time.

Go into some types of services to see what they do.

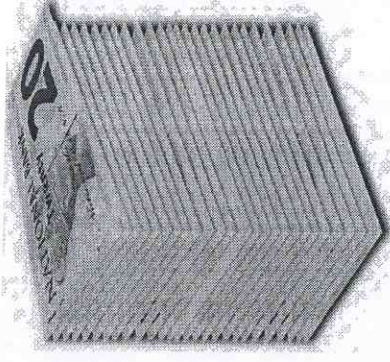


Tell an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) what they have found and get a response.



How will LINKs be set up?

Each local authority will get a grant from the Department of Health.



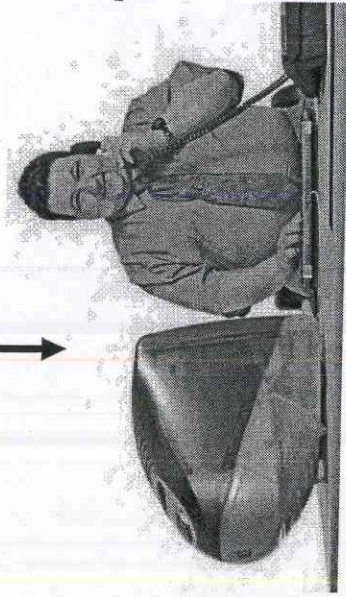
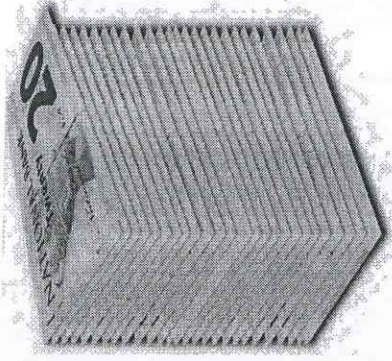
Each local authority will use the money to pay a **host organisation**.

The host will be responsible for setting up the LINK and giving practical support to keep it going. The host will be accountable to the LINK.



The LINK will be independent from the local authority. Each LINK will decide how they want to get the work done

How will LINKs be set up?



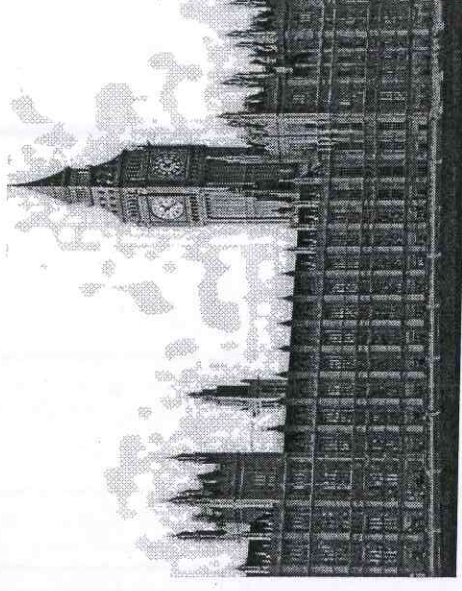
Host



LINK

When will LINKs happen?

The rules about LINKs and how they will work are part of the **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill**. This is being looked at by the Houses of Parliament at the moment.



The Bill should receive Royal Assent when the House returns (after the summer recess) in October.

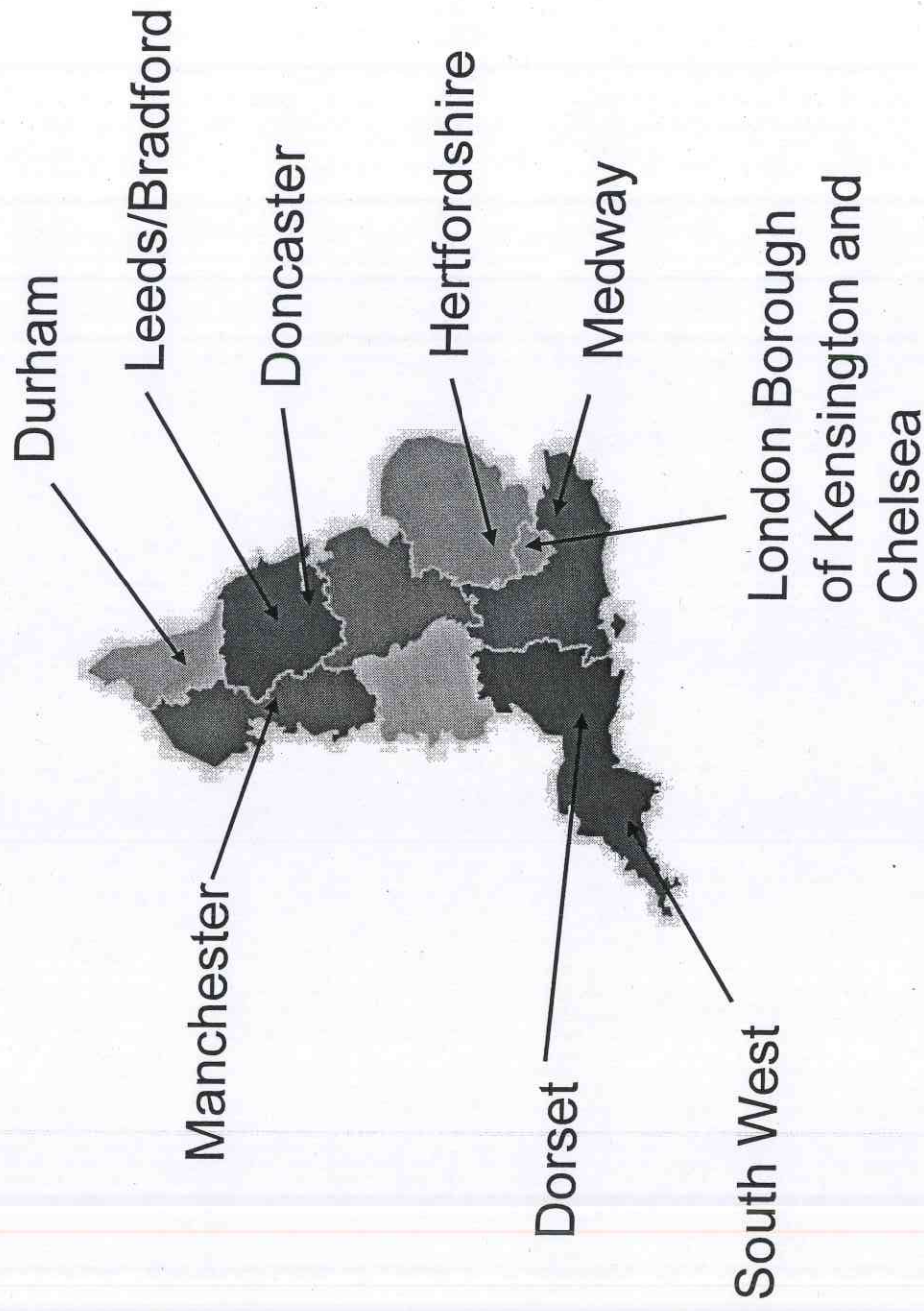
We expect Patient Forums to be abolished in March 2008 and LINKs to start from April 2008.



**April
2008**

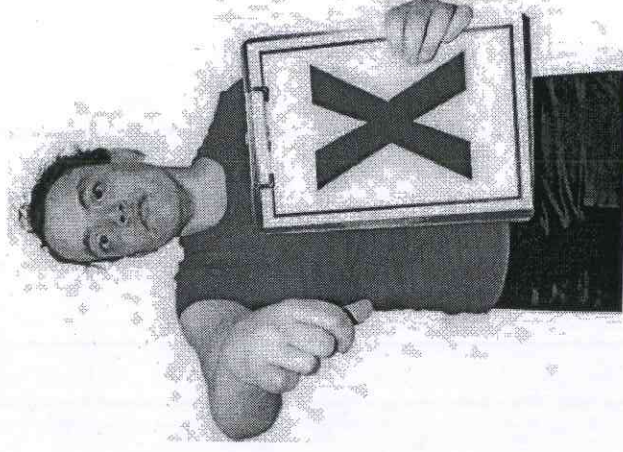
LINKS Early Adopter Projects

There are 9 places around England that are trying out how LINKS might work:



LINKS Early Adopter Projects

They will be able to give us information, advice and guidance about what can work well and what gets in the way of a good LINK. They will try out different ways of doing things. They will share what is working as well as the things they find difficult.



LINKS Early Adopter Projects

The Early Adopter Projects will think about:

- ✓ How to encourage people to get involved with their local LINK
- ✓ What LINKs should do and how they should work.
- ✓ How to decide what the most important things are to do
- ✓ What sort of organisations LINKs should be – what should they look like and how should they be run
- ✓ What support LINKs will need from their Host organisation
- ✓ How Local Authorities should decide which organisations are best to be a host and what money they will need



Who can be part of a LINK?

LINKs will need to include **everyone**:

User-led organisations



Local voluntary and community sector organisations



Individual people



Butyou do not have to be a member to get involved

More Information?



www.cppih.org

go to the Knowledge Management System (KMS)
go to Changing NHS:

LINKs, Early Adopter pages



www.dh.gov.uk/patientpublicinvolvement

Search for 'Local Involvement Networks'
LINKs Bulletin



www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk

Register on Home page