

Getting ready for LINKs

Local Involvement Networks Bulletin

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About this bulletin

Welcome to the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) Bulletin

This bulletin has been developed to help keep you up-to-date with the latest developments on plans to introduce LINKs.

This bulletin will be of particular interest to:

- NHS staff involved in Patient & Public Involvement, especially PPI leads
- Local Government staff working on user involvement and the procurement of 'host' organisations for LINKs;
- Voluntary and community sector organisations who are interested in providing a 'host' service to the new LINKs or becoming a member of a LINK, including those that provide forum support services;
- Patients' Forum members;

- Health and social care regulatory bodies with PPI interests; and
- Members of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Please feel free to circulate this bulletin to colleagues, display it on relevant notice boards or publish it on your internal intranet sites.

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Voice piece

Meredith Vivian, Department of Health

The last year has seen a lot of activity to get ready for LINKs.

At the national level many organisations and individuals have been working hard with Government to ensure that we got the legislation and policy for LINKs right.

Moreover a local level, community groups, as well as care and local authority professionals, have been busy looking at how LINKs might work in practice and preparing for their implementation.

With the passing of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, as well as the announcement of the funding for each area, we can now move to turn the LINKs idea into a reality.

I would like to thank you all for any contribution you have made, to wish you a Happy Christmas and say that I hope in the New Year we can continue to work together to build on what has already been achieved.

News in brief

Latest developments on LINKs

Funding for each area announced

The Government has published how much communities will receive to run their LINK over the next three years.

Unveiled as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement announced in Parliament, the Department of Health has written to local authorities to tell them how much they will receive from 2008-2011.

Amounting nationally to over £80 million, the grant each area will receive will depend on factors such as population and levels of poverty.

To see how much your area will get see 'In Focus' on page 5.

Consultation reminder

The Department of Health three-month consultation on the draft regulations for LINKs is due to end on the 21st Dec. Many responses have already received but the Government would still like to hear more views.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act empowers the Secretary of State to introduce secondary legislation to ensure that LINKs can hold local care services to account.

These proposals include:

- >Placing a duty on service providers to provide LINKs with information they request;
- >Placing a duty on commissioners to respond within a certain timeframe to reports and recommendations made by LINKs;
- >Placing a duty on service providers to allow members of LINKs to enter and view services; and
- >Enabling LINKs to refer issues to a local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for action.

The draft regulations, which set out how the duties will work in practice, have been published in a document called 'Have your say - Consultation on the regulations for Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)'. This document sets out the regulations, explains how they will work and asks for your views.

During the passage of the Act, further provisions were made to introduce a transitional duty on local authorities to make sure there is no gap between Forum and LINK activities and to allow regulations to be made about governance arrangements for LINKs. Given the late stage at which these provisions were introduced, these regulations are not part of the formal consultation but Government will be discussing them with key stakeholders in the New Year.

To find out more visit
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_0787

Early adopter case studies published

As part of the evaluation of the LINK early adopter sites, the National Centre for Involvement has published a series of fact sheets and case studies.

Outlining in more detail the experiences of each of the projects set up to test LINKs, the publications will be of interest to those currently involved in planning their own network.

To access the publications visit www.nationalcentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk or call 024 7615 0417

TUPE clarification

Does TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings) apply in the transfer of responsibilities from CPPIH and 'Forum Support Organisations' to other bodies?

Local authorities are currently going through the process of procuring host arrangements for LINKs and many are considering whether TUPE may be an issue. Stakeholders may be interested to note that the Department has recently taken advice on the matter and is of the view that TUPE is unlikely to apply.

The reason for this is that the abolition of CPPIH and Patients' Forums and the setting up of LINKs is unlikely to involve a transfer of an undertaking to which the TUPE Regulations could apply. Even if

there were such a transfer, it may well be a transfer of functions between public administrative bodies and TUPE does not apply to such a transfer. However, it is for each local authority to form its own view as to the application of TUPE to the arrangements for LINKs that it is setting up.

Briefing on duty to involve

The NHS legal duty to consult the public on the planning and development of services has been updated. The new 'Duty to involve' (known as 'section 242') has been refined to reflect the new commissioning-led NHS and to broaden out the way the NHS involves citizens. A briefing sheet explaining these changes has been published by the Department of Health, to download a copy visit http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081089

New 'LINKs explained' resource

To help stakeholders explain how LINKs will work to their communities an updated 'LINKs explained' leaflet has been produced.

To download a copy of LINKs explained visit:
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationPolicyAndGuidance/DH_077483

Expert Support from CfPS

Councils are reminded that they have until 31 December 2007 to book a placement with an Expert Advisor from the Centre for Public Scrutiny. This is a key resource to help councils understand the community development rationale behind the LINKs agenda. Visit www.cfps.org.uk/eat and complete the request form.

Involvement to Impact winner

Howard Street Community Health Centre, East Lancashire Primary Care Trust has been named the Overall Winner at the NHS Centre for Involvement's first annual Involvement to Impact Awards.

Howard Street Community Health Centre has a long history of involving people in the development of the health centre and the services it provides. In partnership with their local community the health centre has become a true focal point of the community which offers a holistic approach to health and wellbeing.

Judging the overall award winner, David Nicholson, Chief Executive of the NHS said, "We know that care improves when we really listen to what our patients and our communities have to say about the healthcare they expect and receive.

"These awards highlight some excellent examples of really listening to and involving patients, carers, service users and whole communities

in designing and developing health care, and the organisation that takes the Involvement to Impact Award, is, I believe, an outstanding example of this work."

There were over 130 entries from a variety of organisations that focus on involvement activities as a way to make changes in the delivery of NHS services and decision making.

The focus of these awards was to demonstrate how NHS staff and organisations have worked with patients and the public as equal partners and how this involvement has impacted health service planning, design and evaluation of new and existing services.

To find out more or to view the winners visit

www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk

In focus

Funding amount for each area

Over the next three years (2008-2011) each local authority with a social services responsibility will receive funding for LINKs. The following table outlines how much each local authority is projected to get.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Local Authority (£m)	(£m)	(£m)	(£m)
Principal Metropolitan Cities			
Birmingham	0.558	0.556	0.554
Leeds	0.308	0.307	0.306

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Local Authority (£m)	(£m)	(£m)	(£m)
Liverpool	0.291	0.288	0.286
Manchester	0.288	0.287	0.287
Newcastle upon Tyne	0.171	0.17	0.168
Sheffield	0.263	0.263	0.262
Sub-Total	1.879	1.871	1.863

Other Metropolitan Districts

Barnsley	0.152	0.152	0.152
Bolton	0.166	0.166	0.165
Bradford	0.259	0.259	0.26
Bury	0.122	0.122	0.122
Calderdale	0.13	0.13	0.13
Coventry	0.178	0.177	0.177
Doncaster	0.172	0.172	0.172
Dudley	0.173	0.173	0.172
Gateshead	0.14	0.139	0.138
Kirklees	0.202	0.202	0.202
Knowsley	0.14	0.139	0.139
North Tyneside	0.134	0.134	0.134
Oldham	0.151	0.151	0.151
Rochdale	0.147	0.146	0.146
Rotherham	0.16	0.16	0.16
Salford	0.159	0.158	0.157
Sandwell	0.202	0.202	0.201
Sefton	0.172	0.171	0.17
Solihull	0.119	0.119	0.119
South Tyneside	0.127	0.126	0.126
St Helens	0.132	0.132	0.132
Stockport	0.149	0.149	0.148
Sunderland	0.176	0.175	0.174
Tameside	0.146	0.146	0.146
Trafford	0.13	0.13	0.129
Wakefield	0.182	0.182	0.182
Walsall	0.17	0.169	0.169
Wigan	0.175	0.175	0.175
Wirral	0.2	0.199	0.199
Wolverhampton	0.169	0.168	0.167
Sub-Total	4.833	4.824	4.814

Inner London

City of London	0.063	0.063	0.064
Camden	0.176	0.177	0.179
Greenwich	0.188	0.188	0.188
Hackney	0.207	0.207	0.206

Local Authority	2008-09 (£m)	2009-10 (£m)	2010-11 (£m)
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.143	0.143	0.143
Islington	0.17	0.17	0.169
Kensington and Chelsea	0.14	0.142	0.143
Lambeth	0.207	0.206	0.205
Lewisham	0.197	0.195	0.194
Southwark	0.211	0.21	0.209
Tower Hamlets	0.208	0.208	0.208
Wandsworth	0.169	0.169	0.168
Westminster	0.174	0.176	0.178
Sub-total	2.254	2.254	2.253

Outer London

Barking and Dagenham	0.147	0.146	0.146
Barnet	0.182	0.182	0.182
Bexley	0.131	0.131	0.131
Brent	0.185	0.185	0.184
Bromley	0.151	0.151	0.15
Croydon	0.188	0.188	0.187
Ealing	0.183	0.182	0.182
Enfield	0.179	0.179	0.178
Haringey	0.172	0.171	0.171
Harrow	0.138	0.138	0.138
Havering	0.133	0.132	0.132
Hillingdon	0.147	0.147	0.146
Hounslow	0.142	0.141	0.141
Kingston upon Thames	0.102	0.102	0.102
Merton	0.123	0.123	0.123
Newham	0.214	0.213	0.212
Redbridge	0.156	0.156	0.156
Richmond upon Thames	0.107	0.107	0.107
Sutton	0.118	0.117	0.117
Waltham Forest	0.164	0.163	0.162
Sub-total	3.062	3.054	3.047

Shire Counties

Bedfordshire	0.171	0.172	0.172
Buckinghamshire	0.182	0.182	0.182
Cambridgeshire	0.219	0.22	0.222
Cheshire	0.257	0.257	0.258
Cornwall	0.252	0.253	0.255
Cumbria	0.232	0.232	0.232
Derbyshire	0.314	0.315	0.316

Local Authority	2008-09 (£m)	2009-10 (£m)	2010-11 (£m)
Devon	0.298	0.299	0.301
Dorset	0.183	0.184	0.184
Durham	0.256	0.255	0.255
East Sussex	0.236	0.237	0.237
Essex	0.48	0.482	0.484
Gloucestershire	0.231	0.231	0.231
Hampshire	0.378	0.379	0.381
Hertfordshire	0.361	0.361	0.361
Kent	0.492	0.493	0.495
Lancashire	0.454	0.455	0.456
Leicestershire	0.219	0.22	0.221
Lincolnshire	0.285	0.287	0.29
Norfolk	0.342	0.344	0.345
North Yorkshire	0.222	0.222	0.223
Northamptonshire	0.253	0.254	0.256
Northumberland	0.165	0.165	0.165
Nottinghamshire	0.304	0.305	0.306
Oxfordshire	0.222	0.223	0.223
Shropshire	0.15	0.15	0.151
Somerset	0.226	0.227	0.228
Staffordshire	0.301	0.302	0.303
Suffolk	0.28	0.281	0.283
Surrey	0.333	0.333	0.333
Warwickshire	0.212	0.213	0.214
West Sussex	0.281	0.281	0.282
Wiltshire	0.181	0.182	0.183
Worcestershire	0.222	0.223	0.223
Sub-total	9.194	9.224	9.252

Shire Unitary Authorities

Bath & North East Somerset	0.109	0.109	0.109
Blackburn with Darwen	0.123	0.123	0.123
Blackpool	0.126	0.126	0.126
Bournemouth	0.119	0.118	0.118
Bracknell Forest	0.086	0.086	0.086
Brighton & Hove	0.148	0.147	0.147
Bristol	0.21	0.209	0.208
Darlington	0.096	0.096	0.096
Derby	0.15	0.149	0.149
East Riding of Yorkshire	0.158	0.159	0.159
Halton	0.111	0.11	0.11
Hartlepool	0.099	0.099	0.099
Herefordshire	0.119	0.119	0.119

Local Authority	2008-09 (£m)	2009-10 (£m)	2010-11 (£m)
Isle of Wight Council	0.115	0.115	0.116
Isles of Scilly	0.061	0.061	0.061
Kingston upon Hull	0.173	0.172	0.171
Leicester	0.186	0.185	0.184
Luton	0.131	0.131	0.131
Medway	0.136	0.136	0.136
Middlesbrough	0.122	0.121	0.121
Milton Keynes	0.129	0.13	0.131
North East Lincolnshire	0.12	0.12	0.12
North Lincolnshire	0.114	0.114	0.114
North Somerset	0.121	0.122	0.123
Nottingham	0.184	0.183	0.182
Peterborough	0.122	0.122	0.123
Plymouth	0.151	0.151	0.151
Poole	0.103	0.102	0.102
Portsmouth	0.125	0.125	0.125
Reading	0.104	0.104	0.103
Redcar and Cleveland	0.116	0.116	0.116
Rutland	0.069	0.069	0.069
Slough	0.104	0.103	0.103
South Gloucestershire	0.124	0.124	0.125
Southampton	0.141	0.141	0.141
Southend-on-Sea	0.123	0.123	0.123
Stockton-on-Tees	0.126	0.126	0.126
Stoke-on-Trent	0.163	0.162	0.161
Swindon	0.112	0.112	0.112
Telford and The Wrekin	0.119	0.12	0.12
Thurrock	0.111	0.112	0.112
Torbay	0.119	0.12	0.12
Warrington	0.117	0.117	0.117
West Berkshire	0.095	0.095	0.095
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.093	0.093	0.093
Wokingham	0.087	0.088	0.088
York	0.108	0.108	0.108
Sub -total	5.778	5.774	5.771

Further information

To find out more about Links

Visit:

www.dh.gov.uk/patientpublicinvolvement

To get more Patient and Public Involvement resources

Visit: www.library.nhs.uk/ppi

To find out more about current patient involvement practice or the LINKs early adopter sites visit:

www.cppih.org or
www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk

Contact us

Help shape this bulletin

We welcome your ideas and comments that will shape the format and content of this bulletin in the future. This bulletin is published on a monthly basis. Please email: ppimailbox@dh.gsi.gov.uk or write to the PPI Policy Team, Room 502A, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London SE1 6LH.

