

TRANSITION OF LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS TO LOCAL HEALTHWATCH

RESPONSES TO THE NALM FOI REQUEST MARCH 2012

LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSES RECEIVED			
Barking + Dagenham	Barnet	Barnsley	Bath + NE Somerset
Bedford	Bedfordshire	Bexley	Birmingham City
Blackpool	Bolton	Bournemouth	Bracknell Forest
Bradford	Brent	Brighton + Hove	Bristol
Bromley	Buckinghamshire	Bury	Calderdale
Cambridgeshire	Camden	Cheshire East	Cheshire West + Chester
City of London	Cornwall	Coventry	Croydon
The Cumbria	Darlington	Derby	Derbyshire
Devon	Doncaster	Dorset	Dudley
Durham	Ealing	East Riding of Yorkshire	East Sussex
Gateshead	Gloucestershire	Greenwich	Hackney
Halton	Hammersmith + Fulham	Hampshire	Haringey
Harrow	Hartlepool	Havering	Herefordshire
Hertfordshire	Hillingdon	Hounslow	Hull
Isle of Wight	Isles of Scilly	Islington	Kensington + Chelsea
Kent	Kingston upon Thames	Kirklees	Knowsley
Lambeth	Lancashire	Leeds	Leicester City
Leicestershire	Lewisham	Lincolnshire	Liverpool
Luton	Manchester	Medway	Merton
Middlesbrough	Milton Keynes	Newcastle upon Tyne	Newham
Norfolk	North East Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	North Somerset
North Tyneside	North Yorkshire	Northamptonshire	Northumberland
Nottingham	Nottinghamshire County	Oldham	Oxfordshire
Peterborough	Plymouth	Poole	Portsmouth
Reading	Redbridge	Redcar + Cleveland	Richmond upon Thames
Rochdale	Rotherham	Rutland	Salford
Sandwell	Sefton	Sheffield	Shropshire
Slough	Solihull	Somerset	South Gloucestershire
South Tyneside	Southampton	Southwark	St. Helens
Staffordshire	Stockport	Stockton on Tees	Stoke on Trent
Suffolk	Sunderland	Surrey	Sutton
Swindon	Tameside	Telford + Wrekin	Thurrock
Torbay	Tower Hamlets	Trafford	Wakefield District
Walsall	Waltham Forest	Wandsworth	Warrington
Warwickshire	West Berkshire	West Sussex	Westminster
Wigan	Wiltshire	Windsor + Maidenhead	Wirral
Wokingham	Wolverhampton	Worcestershire	York

THE QUESTIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. Has your Local Authority agreed an indicative budget for Local HealthWatch for the period April 2013 – March 2015?
2. If an indicative budget has been agreed for Local HealthWatch for the period April 2013 – March 2015, what sum has been agreed?
3. What arrangements have been agreed by your Local Authority for supporting your local LINK during transition to Local HealthWatch for the period April 2012 – March 2013.
4. What arrangements has your Local Authority put in place to include the local LINK in the pilot Health and Wellbeing Board for the Authority's area?
5. How many meetings have taken place with the public in your Authority's area to consult them on the development of Local HealthWatch?

(By 'arrangements' we mean a provision or plan made in preparation for an undertaking).

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSES

BEDFORDSHIRE - EAST OF ENGLAND

1.	No, subject to notification by the Department of Health Grants.
2.	N/A
3.	Central Bedfordshire LINK will continue to be supported by Host arrangements during 2012-2013 in addition to work getting ready for HealthWatch.
4.	The LINK Chair is a member of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, and wider LINK membership attended the first Health and Wellbeing Board Stakeholder event held in February 2012.
5.	Central Bedfordshire LINK is part of the Pathfinder programme with the Central Bedfordshire Council. The LINK is core members of the Central Bedfordshire HealthWatch Steering Group. The Council attends monthly LINk Board meetings to provide updates on HealthWatch development. A Stakeholder Conference was held in September 2011 to begin wider public engagement. Further engagement activities are being planned.

Response from Central Bedfordshire LINK

Further comments from NALM members

BRENT - LONDON

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	Extend our LINks contract for an additional year – 2012/2013.
4.	None.
5.	None.

Response from Brent LINk

Further comments from NALM members

BRISTOL - SOUTH WEST

1.	No. We are not in a position to do this until we have some certainty over the monies we may receive. At this point of time all we have to go on is the "funding illustration" from the DH at end of 2011, which cannot be assumed as the actual payment account. We await the announcement with interest.
2.	N/A
3.	We are holding monthly pathfinder meetings up until procurement commences when we will separate and the LINKs will undertake their work plan. Bristol LINK has funding agreed for Qtr 1 and 2 and we are discussing arrangements for continuing funding through Qtr 3 and Qtr 4.
4.	The Chair of Bristol LINK has a seat on the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and has been participating in meetings to date.
5.	One large stakeholder event on Feb 6 th by City Council (115 attendees). One provider day is planned for May 11 th 2012 as part of procurement process. Bristol LINK has also held a public event last December and has been promoting awareness of the transition to HW. We also held a citizen's panel questionnaire, although not face to face, has provided useful evidence. It was sent to 1876 Citizen Panel members and we received a 40% response rate totalling 758 people.

Response from Bristol LINK

Further comments from NALM members

CALDERDALE - YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER

1.	As part of our budget setting process for 2012/15, we identified growth to provide part of the funding for Local Healthwatch from 2013/14 to 2014/15. We have identified £100,000 pa for this. We have not yet received notification from central Government about the funds that will be transferred for the signposting and advocacy elements. At the moment, we are working from the indicative figures given in the Dept of Health consultation on this funding. Our intention at this stage is that all of the money transferred will be used for the contract, but no final decision has been made.
2.	See above.
3.	We have recently invited quotes to deliver the Host service for 2012/2013 and have accepted a bid from Calderdale CAB to deliver this service.
4.	The Chair of the LINK is a member of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. Representatives of the LINK have also been included in the Calderdale Assembly, a wider stakeholder group providing

	engagement into the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	We have led one public meeting ourselves, and there has been another public meeting led by the Calderdale LINk. (The LINk shared their findings from their LHW meeting with the Task and Finish Group leading on the establishment of LHW in Calderdale. The Chair of the LINk is also on that Task and Finish Group). There have also been written consultation exercises. We are holding another public meeting on 17 th April 2012.

Response from Calderdale LINk

Further comments from NALM members

CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER - NORTH WEST

1.	No. An indicative budget has been set for 2013/14 only at this stage.
2.	See above.
3.	The public tender process has just been completed to select a host agency for the final year of LINk.
4.	A report to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and the Council's Executive to including LINk is in progress.
5.	None at this stage. The local plan for public engagement starts in April 2012.

Response from Cheshire West and Chester LINk

Further comments from NALM members

CORNWALL - SOUTH WEST

1.	Cornwall Council is only able to agree the budget that is currently available in base budget for LINK. Additional funding by Government is yet unknown and may not be known until the end of 2012 which presents a challenge to the procurement process.
2.	Monies available in base budget for the LINK is £160,650 and this will support the influencing function of HW from 1 April 2013.
3.	Cornwall Council has a governance structure to support the development of HW. There is LINK representation on each of these groups. The contract for the LINK host has been extended for 2012/13 to ensure continuity.
4.	Two members of LINK sit on our Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	LINK undertook its own consultation in May 2011. Cornwall Council and partners consulted with stakeholders during November and December 2011 and anticipates consulting again in May 2012 on the specification and delivery model. Full details of Cornwall Council's consultation exercise is available at www.cornwall.gov.uk/healthwatch .

Response from Cornwall LINK

Further comments from NALM members

COVENTRY - WEST MIDLANDS

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	No arrangements have been agreed.
4.	The LINK Chair sits on the Coventry Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	One.

Response from Coventry LINK

Further comments from NALM members

DURHAM - NORTH EAST

1.	An indicative budget has not yet been agreed for the period April 2012 – March 2013. Any preliminary calculations are based on existing annual funding amounts for the LINk and illustrative figures provided in 2011 by the DH for PALS. NHS complaints advocacy and the DOLS supervisory function.
2.	See 1 above
3.	A contract, including a detailed service specification, has been agreed for the period April 2012 – March 2013 for the existing Host/LINK. This includes the LINk not only continuing with most aspects of its work plan, but the Host, LA and LINk working together through the transition period to LHW. Performance targets include holding LHW awareness raising events, facilitation and co-ordination of time-limited task groups relating to LHW development and transition to LHW updates being produced. Durham County Council will also collaborate with the LINk and the new LHW provider around potential transfer of Enter and View representatives from LINk to LHW where agreed by all parties affected.
4.	The LINk has a seat on the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	Extensive consultation has taken place on the model of LHW in County Durham, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Consultation framework developed.* Initial engagement meeting for LINk and Host organisation, providers, statutory and voluntary Organisations.* Targeted stakeholder consultation with health colleagues, including Clinical Commission Groups, Foundation Trust, PCT and TEWV.* Written feedback provided from LINk, meetings held and ongoing work.* Five Children and Young People's agenda days held involving over 50 young children and youths.* Attendance at People's Parliament.* Written feedback on on-going liaison with PALS.* Meetings with Sensory Support groups (co Deaf, Durham Deafened Support and Blind Life)* Focus group for citizens (including targeting working age adults) held at County Hall (invitation sent to over 400 people).* Consultation information including draft model and response form published on DCC website, link provided from LINk website and advertised in County Durham News (distributed to every household).* Use of social networking, including Facebook and Twitter.

Response from Durham LINk

Further comments from NALM members

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE - YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER

1.	No indicative budget has been allocated as final allocation will not be confirmed by DH until December 2012.
2.	N/A
3.	The ERYLINK contract has been extended to March 2013.
4.	The Chair of ERYLINK sits as a member of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	Public consultation is due to begin in East Yorkshire in May 2012.

Response from East Riding of Yorkshire LINK

Further comments from NALM members

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - SOUTH WEST

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	We are extending the LINK Host contract between 1/3/2012 and 31/3/2013. We have a strong and constructive relationship with the LINK and we are working with them on the transition.
4.	The LINK has a place on the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board which has met several times.
5.	We are starting consultations which run until 30/4/2012. This will include a minimum of six public meetings in each of our districts. There are a number of other opportunities for members of the public to express their views.

Response from Gloucestershire LINK

Further comments from NALM members

GREENWICH - LONDON

1.	No. Awaiting allocations from DH.
2.	N/A
3.	The LA is supporting the LINK through 2012/2013 financially. It is also involving the LINK in discussions about formation of the LHW.
4.	The Chair of the LINK has a place on the Health and Wellbeing Strategic Partners Group which reports to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	None to date. Consultation on a draft specification will take place in the summer.

Response from Greenwich LINK

Further comments from NALM members

HALTON - NORTH WEST

1.	HBC has not yet agreed a budget for Local HealthWatch in 2013/2014 or 2014/2015.
2.	N/A
3.	The existing LINK Host contract and revised budget has been extended until 31 st March 2013. Halton LINK has had a Transition Sub Group of the LINK Board since April 2011, on which representatives from HBC sit. The group have undertaken a series of 'view gathering exercises' from LINK membership and stakeholders. Policy and Commissioning support is provided to this group by HBC Officers. HBC have established a HW Project Group to work alongside the LINK led Transition Sub Group in developing the specification for a local HW Organisation. A commissioning time table for local HW is being finalised and will be presented to the LINK Board during summer 2012. Consultation and engagement activity around the role and development of HW is planned.
4.	The LINK has a representative on the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. This is in addition to a Voluntary and Community Sector Representative. The Board has been meeting since December 2011
5.	<p>As part of the on-going development of the service specification for the implementation of Healthwatch there have already been a number of scoping exercises with the public led by HBC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with LINKs board members • Information exchange and discussion with Halton Older People's Empowerment Network (OPEN), a local forum for older people in Halton; and • A series of meetings with advocacy providers both paid and voluntary on the possible changes. <p>It is already planned that as part of our activity for consultation throughout 2012/13 we will be carrying out a number of 'listening events' in the summer of 2012 that will include discussions on the future of HW as well as details of how to get involved in a more in depth role on developing the specification in full.</p> <p>Involvement of Children, young people, their parents and carer's in the development of HW is being explored.</p>

	<p>Although Halton LINK have been informing and inviting LINK members/public to comment about the transition from LINK to HW for the last 12 months, through the outreach work of the LINK and LINK managed events etc, specific public engagement and consultation meetings have not been arranged. These will not be arranged until the Bill has been given Royal Ascent. The Transition Group has been looking at the best ways/options for consulting on HW.</p> <p>Additional activities that Halton LINK/Transition Sub Group have undertaken to keep the public informed of Health & Social Care Bill developments relating to HW include articles in the LINK newsletters and a dedicated section on the LINK website regarding HW.</p> <p>In partnership with the Halton Clinical Commissioning Group and PCT, there has been a double page spread in the local papers, regarding the NHS changes, which included an article about the change to HW. This gave Halton LINK details Inviting the public to comment or contact LINK for further information.</p> <p>The LINK Transition Sub Group, supported by HBC Officers, has undertaken a 360 degree evaluation of the Halton LINK to identify areas of particular strength and areas for development to inform the planning for LHW. This involved input from the LINK Membership, LINK Board, LINK Host and Key Stakeholders.</p> <p>The LINK is involved in facilitating a public meeting with HBC in relation to the Health and Wellbeing strategy during spring 2012, at which there will be discussion about the development and role of LHW.</p>
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Response from Halton LINK

Further comments from NALM members

HAMPSHIRE - SOUTH CENTRAL AND SOUTH EAST

1.	No. Still awaiting confirmation of LHW arrangements and funding from government.
2.	N/A
3.	Support contract in place from April 2012.
4.	Hampshire LINK Chair is on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	Not appropriate yet until definition is clearer. Two stakeholder engagement meetings held within SHIP pathfinder area in late 2011.

Response from Wirral LINK

Further comments from NALM members

HARROW – LONDON

1.	This will not be achieved until we have confirmation on the funding for LHW.
2.	N/A
3.	We have agreed for the LINk to continue until March 2013 with the same amount of funding.
4.	The Chair of the LINk is a member of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	So far: Two meetings with the LINk members and the voluntary and community sector. One meeting with the Youth Parliament, Overview and Scrutiny, Health and Wellbeing Board and a postal survey of 1,100 members of our residents' panel.

Response from Harrow LINk

Further comments from NALM members

HARTLEPOOL - NORTH EAST

1.	Funding for HealthWatch will not be available until December 2012. We shall commit the funding allocated by government for HW once we know the amount available. Hartlepool expects to receive, in addition, approximately £21,000 start-up costs from government in 2012, which will be part of the contract that we aim to tender for and award by December 2012 for the new HW organisation.
2.	See 1 above.
3.	We have extended the current LINk contract for 1 year to 31 March 2013. LINk is hosted by Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA) and the arrangement will continue.
4.	The local LINk currently sits on both the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and the Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group in Hartlepool.
5.	We have had one public event in October 2011 using a Working Together for Change model, and another event to reach out to the younger people in the Borough is planned for May 2012. In addition, we have sent out questionnaires to all LINk members to harvest their views, and we shall be using the Life Channel to disseminate information during 2012.

Response from Hartlepool LINk

Further comments from NALM members

HERTFORDSHIRE – EAST OF ENGLAND

1	No, but discussing with LINk as the situation becomes clearer and as we develop the specification for HealthWatch.
2.	No response.
3.	<p>LA Commissioners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Work very closely with LINk on an agreed and robust Transition Plan. * Provided strategic, operational and financial support in planning and delivery of Stakeholders' engagement events for raising profile of LINk/HW and ensuring participation, partnership and representation. * Offering a Single Tender for LINk to deliver HW duties, in order that LINk's knowledge, volunteers, skills and good practice is not wasted. * Have extended the Host' contract (Shaw Trust) until March 2013 to ensure LINk activities can be delivered. * HealthWatch contract specification is being discussed and developed with LINk Board members. * Assistance with CEO job description. * Offer of HR support with recruitment. * Offer of Learning and Development opportunities for LINk/HW members provided via the LA.
4.	<p>The Chair of the LINk has a seat on the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board which has met since July 2011. Joint reports to SHWB have been prepared by Commissioners and LINk/HW. Part of current developments are negotiating an engagement strategy which has the right balance between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * LINk/HW representing other stakeholders * Stakeholders representing themselves * Stakeholders and LINk/HW working together * Engagement processes led by statutory bodies <p>Local Authority commissioner and LINk Chair are presenting a jointly written proposal for an Engagement Strategy for the SWHB in May.</p>
5.	<p>Many meetings have taken place or planned. The most significant are two (January and February 2012) which were aimed at engaging the voluntary organisations in agreeing a vision for HW in Hertfordshire. Over 140 attended. Four further events in different localities, aimed at members, district, parish, local patient forums, etc. are planned for May and early June. A 360 degree evaluation of the LINk also included questionnaires to voluntary organisations. The agenda for the LINk AGM on June 19th is likely to be a significant opportunity to announce lead in period for HW elections, general infrastructure planning including timetable and plans for recruiting CEO, recruiting/electing chair and board members, HW contract specifications etc.</p>

Response from Hertfordshire LINk

Further comments from NALM members

HOUNSLOW – LONDON

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	Current Host contract has been extended to the end of March 2013. Development of LHW is currently in early stages of development.
4.	The Chair of Hounslow LINK has a place on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	One workshop has taken place, facilitated by the LINK/Host. A further workshop is being planned for late April.

Response from Hounslow LINK

Further comments from NALM members

ISLE OF WIGHT - SOUTH CENTRAL AND SOUTH EAST

1.	No as we are still awaiting feedback from the DoH concerning the outcome of the funding consultation that concluded last October. However I would point out that historically the Isle of Wight Council has passed on the full value of funding made available to the Isle of Wight LINK.
2.	N/A. See above.
3.	We are working closely with our local LINK on a transition plan and have recently extended the contract of Help and Care who work to support the LINK and confirmed that funding will continue to be passed in full via Help & Care to the LINK for this period. We are also working closely with them on a consultation plan and document which will go out to public consultation to inform the specification for LHW on the Isle of Wight.
4.	A representative from the LINK sits on the Health and Wellbeing Board for the Isle of Wight and has attended and contributed to several meetings of this board already. It is clearly stated in the terms of reference for this board that the LINK will have a place on this board until the LINK is then replaced by a representative of LHW.
5.	We held an initial information gathering event on the Island in November last year (with a similar opportunity being made available through our SHIP pathfinder off island – in Winchester). However, we are now about to embark on a public consultation which will involve a great many more meetings and events to involve our local community. In the meantime we have met regularly with the LINK stewardship group and separately with the LINK chair to involve them in our planning processes.

Response from Wirral LINK

Further comments from NALM members

ISLES OF SCILLY - SOUTH WEST

1.	Yes.
2.	2013 – 2014 = £57,014. 2014 – 2015 = £57,195.
3.	Additional funding of £5,000 has been allocated for the period 2012-2013 to enable the transition from LINK to HW.
4.	The LA has established a Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board for the area. The Terms of Reference for this Board has been outlined and been approved, this includes overseeing the development of HW for the Isles of Scilly.
5.	Two meetings of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.

Response from Isles of Scilly LINK

Further comments from NALM members

ISLINGTON - LONDON

1.	Not yet.
2.	N/A
3.	We have informed the LINK that we shall grant aid them for 2 years to undertake the influencing and signposting functions of LHW. We are working with commissioners across London to develop an appropriate model and commissioning arrangement for the health advocacy element. We have a working group with LINK and NHS representation which is taking forward LHW in Islington. We are also putting together an engagement/communications plan for LHW.
4.	The LINK has been represented at the Health and Wellbeing Board since its inception in 2011 and is part of the formal structure.
5.	As in (3), an engagement plan is being put together. Meetings so far include: Meetings with LINK core group – open to the public, July and November 2011. Workshop at LINK Annual Fair 21/3/2012. We are also consulting local people by other means – not just meetings, eg: questions on LHW have been included in Islington's on-line Citizen's Panel for March 2012.

Response from Islington LINK

Further comments from NALM members

KINGSTON UPON THAMES – LONDON

1.	Yes.
2.	£98,000
3.	Advice and support provided, including through the Host.
4.	Chair of the LINk/HW is a member of our interim Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	There have been 9 Steering Group meetings (which are open to the public) since September 2011 and two public meetings (November 2011 and March 2012).

Response from Kingston upon Thames LINk

Further comments from NALM members

MERTON - LONDON

1.	No. We have not agreed a budget for this time period.
2.	N/A
3.	We have extended the contract of the Host organisation until June 2012 and a further extension will be made at that point. The terms and funding of that contract remain unchanged.
4.	The Chair of Merton LINk is a member of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	One public meeting of LINk Merton, one Health and Wellbeing Board meeting and one Healthier Citizens and Old Peoples Scrutiny Panel meeting. A formal consultation will start from May 2012.

Response from Merton LINk

Further comments from NALM members

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE - NORTH EAST

1.	No. See below.
2.	We appreciate the amount received from central government will not be ring-fenced. However, as with the current LINK budget, the intention is to make the majority of the amount received available for the HW contract.
3.	We are maintaining funding for the Newcastle LINK at the same level as 2011/12 - £149K. We have regular meetings with the LINK Chair and the Hosts about HW. The LINK staff support team are focusing upon LINK functions and responsibilities and the Executive Board is setting up a small sub group of Executive Members to consider HW implications and support the LINK representatives on Newcastle's Shadow Wellbeing for Life Board (this is our Health and Wellbeing Board). The intention in Newcastle, given the likely levels of funding involved for HW, has always been to procure our local HW. However, we are open to revisiting this in the light of emerging information from the Department of Health and the Pathfinders.
4.	In terms of building on the considerable good practice and learning within our Newcastle LINK two positions out of a total of 25 have been created on the Shadow Wellbeing for Life Board for representatives of the LINK – these are taken by the LINK Chair and the LINK Project Manager. It is also worth pointing out that there is also a position on the Shadow Board for the Chief Executive of Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service as well as 2 further positions for sectoral VCS representatives.
5.	<p>There were 2 sessions towards the end of January to consider HealthWatch which were open to members of the public. The majority of participants, however, were representatives of VCS organisations. In addition to these there have been a number of other sessions with key stakeholders and organisations.</p> <p>In the absence of greater clarity about HW it has been difficult to know what we are consulting on – there remain more questions than answers and, as guided by feedback from those we have spoken to, we have decided to wait until there is more information before widening involvement opportunities. The feedback we have had so far about local HW is very much in keeping with other LA's – the usual messages about not reinventing the wheel and about building on the existing good practice, organisations and networks already in place. Interestingly, our feedback to date also indicated a preference for fairly tight boundaries to be drawn around what local HW is and isn't. Given the likely scale of resources available and considerable extent of functions there was a preference for local HW not to be too concerned with the wider wellbeing agenda. Although people felt the wider wellbeing agenda to be extremely important there was a desire to define realistic aims and objectives for our local HW.</p> <p>We also have an Involving People and Communities Development Forum which is comprised of VCS partners which has, as part of its remit, a role in relation to the development of our local HW.</p>

Response from Newcastle upon Tyne LINK

Further comments from NALM members

NORTH SOMERSET - SOUTH WEST

1.	No. The funding for HW will be set annually as part of the Council's annual budget setting process.
2.	See above.
3.	We shall be extending the contract for the existing Host until March 2013.
4.	North Somerset has a People and Communities Board which includes the statutory functions of a Health and Wellbeing Board. The LINk has a place on this board as will the HealthWatch after April 2013.
5.	We will be extending the contract for the existing host until March 2013. In consultation with our local key health and Social care stakeholders it has been agreed to focus public engagement on what HW will do. We will therefore be undertaking a major public engagement exercise in the autumn of 2012 to find our the public's top 10 priorities in health and social care that it would want the HW to take up and be active on during its first year. There has been engagement with the same key stakeholders on the structure of HW through a HW Stakeholder Reference Group we have established.

Response from North Somerset LINk

Further comments from NALM members

POOLE - SOUTH WEST

1.	A budget has not yet been agreed however, anticipated financial implications are set out in a report submitted to our Health & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny committee in January 2012. The report and supporting documents are available on our website via the links below: Committee report HealthWatch update Engagement activity
2.	See above links to Committee report.
3.	The contract with the existing Host organisation has been extended in order to enable Pool LINk to continue until 31 March.
4,	It has been agreed that LINks will have seat at the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and a representative will be on the Board from the first meeting. A report regarding the mechanism for appointing a suitable representative will be considered at the first meeting of the Shadow Board.
5.	Engagement regarding the shaping of LHW has included the staging of one major stakeholder event, a questionnaire survey (on-line and hard copies) and 9 focus groups.

Response from Poole LINk

Further comments from NALM members

PORTRUSH - SOUTH CENTRAL AND SOUTH EAST

1.	Yes. Budget for 2012-2013 is £124.000. http://www.portsmouthcc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/24043.html
2.	N/A. Post April 2013 yet to be agreed.
3.	Portsmouth LINk has established a Transition Group which is currently agreeing its final membership. This is imminent. Check http://portsmouthlink.blogspot.co.uk For PCC support, see http://www.portsmouthcc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/24043.html
4.	See http://www.portsmouthcc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/24043.html . The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board is expected to go live from June 2013.
5.	See http://portsmouthhealthwatch.blogspot.co.uk

Response from Portsmouth LINk

Further comments from NALM members

ROTHERHAM – EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

1.	An indicative budget has not yet been agreed.
2.	No Response
3.	Rotherham MBC has entered into a negotiated service level agreement with the current Host and local LINk for an initial period 1 st April 2012 to 30 th Sept. 2012 with an option for further 6 month renewal subject to performance and agreement. The local LINk has been supported through provision of funding and regular performance/contract meetings which will continue until a local HW is commissioned.
4.	Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Boards does not include the local LINk. A place on the Health and Wellbeing Board will be made available to the future local HW in line with statutory guidance.
5.	These will be built into the commissioning process for a local HW which is likely to start in the August/Sept 2012.

Response from Rotherham LINk

Further comments from NALM members

SALFORD - NORTH WEST

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	The current contract with the LINk Host has been extended to 31 March 2013 and a work plan agreed.
4.	The Chair of the LINk in Salford is a member of the pilot Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	An initial workshop with stakeholders is being held on 03 April. Full public consultation will follow in May 2012.

Response from Salford LINk

Further comments from NALM members

SOLIHULL - WEST MIDLANDS

1.	No, as we are still awaiting confirmation from DH with regard to the allocation.
2.	N/A
3.	The Host contract has been extended with an emphasis on supporting LHW development in Solihull and support and development to be provided around new and existing volunteers.
4.	Acting as a conduit as the LHW Development Lead.
5.	To date, four meetings have taken place with more to be carried out over the coming months.

Response from Solihull LINk

Further comments from NALM members

SUFFOLK - EAST OF ENGLAND

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5.	

Contribution from Suffolk LINk

Suffolk County Council have coordinated and facilitated two HealthWatch Groups, one for the Pathfinder Group and one for the Implementation of HealthWatch.

A significant amount of time has been invested by all parties - the Suffolk CC, the LINk, local Voluntary Sector, the Statutory Bodies - in planning a way forward to ensure that HealthWatch will be well established, reach all parts of the community and to develop ways to ensure that the strengths of the LINk are not lost and the new organisation will be 'representative' and influential. They are currently in the process now of a consultation across the County - including the 1200+ members of the LINk - on the direction of travel for HW and the skills needed for the HW to be influential.

There has always been a strong will for the HW to be 'bottom up' but recognising the need for the correct talent to be available to interact with the CCGs, Health and Wellbeing Board, HOSC etc and to this end they have organised round table discussions to establish how all parties can best benefit from HW involvement.

Part of the planning allows for an Implementation Executive to be established during this interim year. That is in its infancy at the moment.

Further comments from NALM Members

TELFORD AND WREKIN - WEST MIDLANDS

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	We have agreed to TUPE transfer the staff currently providing support to our local LINK, into the Council to ensure that LINK continues to have the level of support that it has received. This was on the basis that the current host provider would not extend the contract with the Council commissioners beyond the 31 March 2013. This was the best pragmatic solution we could come up with, in agreement with our local LINK and the support staff.
4.	The LINK Chair is an active member of the Health & Wellbeing Board that has been in existence through 2011/12 and will continue to be so during the shadow year – 2012/13 as per the governance arrangements agreed by the Council, PCT and CCG for the Board.
5.	With LINK there has been 1 public meeting and a number of other meetings with LINK members and other organisations to engage them in and discuss with the development of a specification for our future local HW.

Response from Telford and Wrekin LINK

Further comments from NALM members

WANDSWORTH - LONDON

1.	No.
2.	No response.
3.	Contract extension for present LINK Host with variations to service specification reflecting anticipated differences in support needs during transition period.
4.	LINK is a member of the Board.
5.	None. Consultation event with invited partnership group.

Response from Merton LINK

Further comments from NALM members

WEST BERKSHIRE - SOUTH CENTRAL AND SOUTH EAST

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	The Local Authority is supporting the local LINk as part of a wider group representing many local user, patient and carers groups, who are coming together to form a Community Interest Company to deliver the LHW functions.
4.	The local LINk Chair has been participating in the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, and will continue to do so until such time as LHW can nominate a representative.
5.	Six open meetings of the LHW Development Group have already been held, mainly aimed at local voluntary and community organisations, with plans to promote LHW to a general public over the next six months.

Response from West Berkshire LINk

Further comments from NALM members

WEST SUSSEX - SOUTH CENTRAL AND SOUTH EAST

1.	Yes (part subject to confirmation from government).
2.	£239K for ex-LINKs element, plus whatever DH allocated ex PALS and ICAS functions.
3.	We have extended the contract of the current Host to March 2013 at the same level as 2011/2012. We plan to let the contract for HW in October 2012 to enable a six month transition/handover.
4.	The Chair of the LINK Stewardship Group is a member of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and also sits on the HW Planning Group.
5.	Four workshops with stakeholders. Eight meetings involving 19 voluntary/community sector groups.

Response from West Sussex LINk

Further comments from NALM members

WILTSHIRE - SOUTH WEST

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	Continued funding and liaison with the LINk implementation group for HW.
4.	Representative from LINk sits on the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	Numerous, plus online consultation, workshops, etc. and more meetings are planned.

Response from Wiltshire LINk

Further comments from NALM members

WIRRAL - NORTH WEST

1.	There has been no suggestion, as far as I know, to change the current funding arrangement.
2.	No response.
3.	The lead person for the LA will continue to liaise with the current Host organisation. The Transition Group meets monthly and will Agenda any issues around support required for the LINk.
4.	The Chair of the LINk has a place on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	None yet, but a comprehensive survey is planned to be followed by consultation meetings.

Response from Wirral LINk

Further comments from NALM members

WOKINGHAM - SOUTH CENTRAL AND SOUTH EAST

1.	Yes.
2.	This is commercially sensitive information as the service will be tendered, but last year's LINk service was secured through a local third sector organisation with a contractual value of £19,822.40.
3.	We have agreed to extend the contract with the current host for the LINk, initially for a further six months to 30 September 2012, pending developments around HW.
4.	This is being discussed at the next meeting of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
5.	None. The commencement of the public consultation process is in the latter stages of planning.

Response from Wokingham LINk

Further comments from NALM members

YORK - YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER

1.	No.
2.	N/A
3.	The LINk Host has agreed a one year Variation Agreement to the terms of their existing contract. This means that there will be a professional Host staffing complement in place to support York LINk until 31 st March 2013. In agreement with the authority a clear workplan has been produced for the 2012-13 financial year, which will set out a series of steps.
4.	The LINk has a place on the pilot Health and Wellbeing Board and are regular participants at HWB meetings and seminars.
5.	Two City wide public consultation events have been held with LINk members, the wider public and voluntary sector partners to consult on the developments of LHW

Response from York LINk

Further comments from NALM members