

LINKs AND HOSTS - STORMING AND PERFORMING?

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The primary role of a LINK is to provide a stronger voice for local people in the planning, design or redesign, commissioning, and provision of health and social care services. ¹

The LINKs' role will be to:

- promote and support the involvement of people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of health and social care services
- obtain the views of people about their needs for, and experienced of, health and social care services and make these views known to those responsible for commissioning, providing, managing or scrutinising those services
- enable people to monitor and review the commissioning and provision of care services
- make reports and recommendations about how health and social care services could be improved, to people responsible for commissioning, providing, managing or scrutinising those services.

The purpose of a host organisation is to enable, support and facilitate the LINK in its activities. It will be for the LINK to decide what work it does, when and how. ²

The host organisation's role will be to:

- undertake the initial set-up of the LINK
- work with the LINK participants to facilitate the establishment of the LINK's arrangements for managing and deciding on its activities
- hold the finances of the LINK
- facilitate the correspondence and communication activities of the LINK
- ensure data management and record-keeping of LINK information
- provide advice and support for the LINK
- have a strong commitment to forming strategic partnerships and effective working relationships with other organisations and support the LINK to develop such partnerships
- support the LINK in the development and promotion of its priorities and work plan and activities
- build on and, where necessary, develop local networks to support ongoing, sustainable recruitment activity
- provide a service appropriate to people's needs
- operate within the agreed performance frameworks laid down in its contract
- report back to the local authority of LINK/host activity in accordance with the terms of the contract

¹Getting ready for LINKs, Planning your Local Involvement Network, Department of Health August 2007

²Getting ready for LINKs, Contracting a host organisation for your Local Involvement Network, Department of Health August 2007