

## Report for the NAPF 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Since the Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2007 I have to Report that:-  
I wrote on the 17<sup>th</sup> August to:-

The Bishops of Chester, Exeter. Liverpool and York

I received replies from York who would like to be kept updated regarding this matter

Chester says that he would take particular interest if he was in the House and thanked me for drawing his attention to this matter.

I also wrote to the Chief Executives of the following Councils:-  
Salford, St. Helens, Wirral, Liverpool, Trafford, Halton, Warrington, Sefton, Manchester City, Stockport, Wigan, Knowsley and Cheshire.

I received replies from the following:-

St. Helen's who informed me that they were having a Meeting in London!! Which I was invited to but at some cost to me, and it was an early start so would have meant an overnight stay. I could not attend but passed the paper work to Malcolm hoping he could attend.

Wigan – said that they would be willing to involve the Local PPIF's at all relevant stages in the procedure to establish LINKs.

Halton – I had a reply on 21<sup>st</sup> August and was supposed to get another letter from the Strategic Director - Health and Community- when he returned from Annual leave. I am still waiting.

Sefton replied to say that Sefton PPIF Co-ordinator had been invited to their Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Stockport replied to say that they would be engaging the existing local public participation and involvement forums.

Knowsley replied and have a representative of the local PPI Forum as a Member of their working Group who will feed back to the other forums in the area.

6 Councils have not had the courtesy to reply yet. Maybe it is in the Post Office waiting to be sorted!!!

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September we had a Joint Meeting of the Cheshire and Wirral Forum and Malcolm was the Guest Speaker. He did not pay me to say this but I have had numerous laudable reports. Everyone really enjoyed his presentation and found everything extremely interesting.

Christine Heron Wirral came to our Wirral Chairs Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September and talked to us about what we would like to see with LINKs and this was a pre-Meeting before the

Meeting with other interested parties on the 5<sup>th</sup> October. This meeting went exceptionally well and I really felt that Wirral was trying to get on top of the planning process. Wirral has got a good group together and has the Chairs or a nominated deputy to attend every LINKs planning meeting. The first of these was held on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

They have a good idea how they think it will. We of course have difficulties as we do not yet have a budget and procuring the 'Host' will in some ways depend on the funding available.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October I attended the Cheshire County Council's LINKs event.

This was very well attended but I did not feel as though there was a 'core group like we had in Wirral.

I felt that they did not seem to have the same direction as we had, and the Group was large with 7 tables of approximately 10 people and not everyone invited turned up.

The presentations were interesting and the Group discussions at the end brought up many points and each group was asked to pick out just two points after 1 hours discussion.

Points Raised were:-

P.P.I.F.'s Struggled to get people to become Members are the same people going to be doing the same jobs under another title or will LINKs strive for New Members to do different things, if they can recruit them.

The 'Host' must not be a profit making organisation and must be independent.

They should have a good knowledge of the Area in which they are working.

Good communications and Feedback from the Members to the Public is of great importance.

How will LINKs be Monitored and Reach Hard to reach Groups? Everything must be treated with Equality and Diversity in mind.

It was felt that they should utilise the expertise of the Present Membership and also include Charities.

Enough time to give LINKs time to work.

One of the Early Adopters were asked by Cheshire what did they feel they had achieved in the past months and they said 'Very little'

At the end of the Meeting one of the Members Kevan Larkin read this little ode which I would like to share with you:-

#### A LINK CONCEIVED

Is anyone familiar with this new idea called LINK

I bet it's ruffled a few feathers and even caused a stink

But we are reasonable people and we are not sore

Why? It's a road that we have all travelled before

Of course we should embrace this change without much fetter

Working hard together we might just make things better

All our submissions should benefit the community as a whole

Not from hidden agenda's that only benefit a single soul

So let us all co-operate and together see things in the round

Then the conclusion can be positive and really sound

Now that we have had an afternoon of information and mirth

Let us all go away confident that **LINK** has finally had its birth.