



Your Health, Your Care, Your Say

ISSUE 7

JULY / AUGUST 2009

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LINK's President Announced!

Cambridgeshire LINK is now in its 2nd year and has adopted a new way of working.

This new way of working was agreed at the 1st Annual General Meeting and is shown in the diagram below. The 1st Annual Report was also agreed at this meeting and copies are available online at www.cambridgeshirelink.org.uk or by contacting the office.

Within the 'new way' Cambridgeshire LINK appointed a President and Vice President. Dr Mike Hewins was unanimously elected as President and Nick Roberts as Vice-President. Some of you

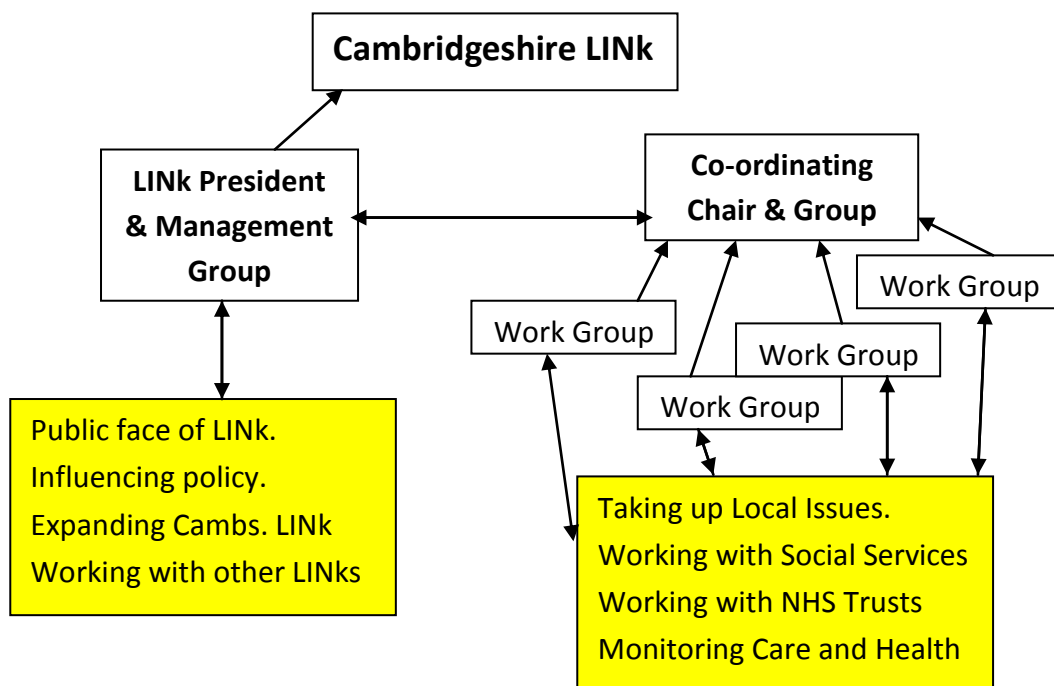
may already know Dr Hewins as he has been acting as LINK Chair since Hilary Mansfield resigned due to work commitments earlier in the year. All roles within the new structure are described below.

LINK work groups are still made up of Active Participants, but instead of being theme based they are now 'locality' based. A list of the work groups and what they are starting to work on can be found on pages 2 and 3.

LINK work groups will be concentrating on taking up

local issues, which is why it's more important than ever to let LINK know your views. They will also be working closely with social services and the NHS.

In order to seek improvements to services that are important to people in Cambridgeshire, LINK needs more Active Participants. If you or someone you know has a few hours a month spare and are keen to make health and/or social care services better for everyone then please contact the office on 01480 465316 who will be able to tell you more.



What are the new groups doing?

Under the new way of working all groups must collect evidence to prove that an area of work needs to be looked into.

NHS Cambridgeshire - Pat Skelton has been elected Chair of this group that has met twice. The group has agreed that the areas of work needing to be looked at will be around assessing health needs for Cambridgeshire, provision and development of services to meet those needs via commissioning and the provision of direct services via GP practices, Dental practices and Pharmacies. The group has split into sub groups for Dental services, Community Hospitals and Out of Hour Services. The Dental Sub group will continue with the work set down within its previous Task Group and will also follow up on the recommendations made in the formal report. The group will also be examining the services provided within NHS charges by practices. The Community Hospitals sub group will be continuing with all work in this area, including responding to the South Fenland Review which is currently taking place. The Out of Hours Service sub-group will continue with the work done by the previous task group and will also be involved in the new service commissioning. Plans are in hand to try and engage with Patient Participation Groups in GP practices.

Ambulance Trust - Chaired by Ian Raine, this group have visited the Cambridge Ambulance Station to gain an overview of the East of England Ambulance Services in the County. All areas were covered including area definitions, the air ambulance, training and general issues, including an East Cambridgeshire Community Paramedic issue. The group has been invited to visit the Norwich Control to understand response

arrangements.

Regional Policy Group - Mike Hewins was appointed Chair of this group. The areas of responsibility have been agreed as:

- Joint work with other LINKs in the region
- Dealing with cross border issues
- National Issues
- Involvement and engagement from the Strategic Health Authority
- Regional Specialist Commissioning
- Proposed new legislation
- Overview of National development
- Cambridge and Peterborough Clinical Priorities Forum and
- Any emerging issues.

The group is currently working on how to prioritise the above and decide on delivery methods.

Involvement Group - Previously known as the Engagement Group, members wanted to change its name to better reflect its role and duties. Bobbie Heather was named as Chair for the group and at their first meeting members discussed various engagement and promotional activities and arrangements for a "drop-in centre" in St Ives. If successful the group will look into setting up similar centres across the County.

Hinchingbrooke Group - At the groups first meeting Ruth Clapham was appointed Chair as well as deciding representation role on its various Trust's meetings. An 'orientation' visiting to Hinchingbrooke Hospital is currently being arranged via Louisa Grice (PALS) for members. Plans are also being made to visit the hospital with the LINK stand in the near future.

Papworth Hospital - Ken Warren has been appointed Chair. A visit to Papworth is being arranged via Brenda Bush (PALS). The group are also hoping to meet with the Volunteer Services Manager and the Chief Executive of the hospital and are looking into the possibility of taking the LINK stand to the hospital to gather views and comments.

Addenbrookes Hospital Group - Margaret Moffat has been appointed Chair of this group. Arrangements are currently being made to meet with Governors of the Hospital to discuss ways they can work together so that there is not a duplication of work. The group are also looking into setting up a display in the Hospital concourse and in the outpatients departments so they can promote the LINK and gather feedback from patients and visitors to help influence their work programme.

Mental Health Trust - Due to his experience in this work area David Jordan has been appointed Chair. The group are writing to Cambridgeshire organisations who assist people with mental health issues to try and gather outstanding issues and/or concerns relating to service availability or delivery to help influence their work programme. The group is contacting the Trust to develop ways in providing "drop-in centres" at some of the Trust's outpatient departments and outreach sites.. As the Mental Health Trust covers Peterborough the group will be liaising with the Peterborough LINK.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please contact Zoe on 01480 465316 if you are interested.

New Groups Continued...

Cambridgeshire Community Services and Other Providers -

Nick Roberts was appointed Chair of this group and after their first meeting the group are looking to meet with a representative from Cambridgeshire Community Services to establish the type of services they provide and their relationship to NHS Cambridgeshire. They also looking to set up a LINK display in the Community Hospitals to gather feedback from patients and visitors.

Social Care Group - Previously known as the Cambridgeshire County Council group, members felt the new name better reflected what they are looking at. The group are currently gathering information of what services' are

available and how to collect the views of the people who use these services'. The group will be meeting with representatives from Adult Support Services at the County Council shortly for an overview of social care services and how the integration of these services works with NHS Cambridgeshire (PCT) and the providers of the services. If you would like to provide the Social Care Group with any information about Social Care Services within the County or to join this group please contact the LINK office on 01480 465316.

Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES) - A sub group, has been brought forward from the 2008/09 work plan to look into ICES for Palliative Care and to assess the provision of wheelchair services in

the County. The sub group's Chair is Paul Price and since meeting they have begun to gather evidence and raise questions about the services available for Palliative Care. The sub group are currently organising a visit to meet with Crossroads and Marie Curie to gain further information into the services and to gain feedback on how well they are delivered. In addition to this the group has met with the Commissioning and Performance Manager for Adult Services and looked at the End of Life Strategy. Arrangements are in place for the group to visit the Huntingdonshire wheel-chair service and are awaiting confirmation of arrangement to when they can visit the other three providers that cover the rest of the County.

Annual Report Summary/ Group Round-up!

Following the LINK 1st Annual General Meeting of 14th May 2009, the LINK Annual Report was approved. Copies were made available for all attendees and can be downloaded from www.cambridgeshirelink.org.uk or if you would like a hard copy please contact Zoe on 01480 465316.

Every piece of work LINK looks into will come from evidence given to the groups. If you have a view or comment about any service within health or social care please contact the office.

Many of the 'old' task groups have formed part of the new work groups. Here is how they have transformed...

Discharge Planning - This area will fall within the different 'locality' groups, should evidence be gathered to support this.

Self Directed Support - This area will be reviewed in 6 months once it is all set up and running.

Out of Hours Care Services - The remit of this task group was completed but may be looked into again under the Social Care work group should enough evidence be collected to prove this needs to happen.

Integrated Community Equipment Services - This work is continuing, please see above for more information.

Transitions (Transfer between age related services) - This area now falls within the Social Care group and will be looked into should evidence prove this needs to happen.

Cleanliness and Infection Control - This area will fall within the new work groups and will be looked into if required.

Food and Nutrition - This area will also fall under the new work groups and will be looked into should it be needed too.

Children & Young Peoples Health - This is also an area that will fall into the new

groups and will be looked into if evidence proves this needs to happen.

Hinchingbrooke Governance - This topic will fall under the Hinchingbrooke Hospital group and will be considered once a decision is reached.

Papworth Relocation - This topic will fall under the Papworth Hospital group and will be revisited once an outcome from the Department of Health is reached.

Primary Care Out of Hours - This area will be covered by a sub group of the NHS Cambs (PCT) group

Community Hospitals - This area will be covered by a sub group of the NHS Cambs (PCT) group.

Dental Services - This area is now covered by a sub group of the NHS Cambs (PCT) group.



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Host News

As the majority of staff are now part-time please find below the days when staff will be in the office.

Mike - Tuesday to Friday

Zoe - Monday to Friday

Kim - Monday to Friday

Emma - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Kate - Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Sharon - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Papworth Charity Walk

On Sunday 27th September the third World Heart Day Walk to raise funds to pay for lifesaving equipment at Papworth Hospital will be held at Grafham Water. Entrants can choose to walk three, six or nine miles or cycle round the route.

The Papworth Task Group would like to organise a LINK team to participate in this event. The benefits would be several – to raise funds for Papworth, to raise the LINK profile, to gain publicity for the work LINK does and to engage further with members of the public (particularly the users of the services Papworth provides – many ex-patients participate in the walk!)

If you would like to join us, please let Emma know on 01480 465363.

Thank you.



NHS Cambridgeshire Moves...

As of Monday 20th July, 2009 NHS Cambridgeshire will be based at Lockton House, which is just off Brooklands Avenue, in the centre of Cambridge.

Their new address will be:

Lockton House

Clarendon Road

Cambridge

CB2 8FN

Switchboard telephone number: 01223 725400

NHS Cambridgeshire said the move became necessary as their old accommodation, which was split across 3 offices, is no longer fit for purpose. The Ida Darwin site in Fulbourn, where they were based is also earmarked for redevelopment.

Chris Banks, Chief Executive of NHS Cambridgeshire said: "We are pleased to announce our move to new offices in a central Cambridge location - and we look forward to welcoming visitors to our new offices over the coming months."