



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board: Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 30 June 2009

Subject: Leeds Local Involvement Network (LINK) – Annual Report (2008/09)

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Board (Health) with the 2008/09 Annual Report of Leeds Local Involvement Network (LINK). This will be the first annual report produced by Leeds LINK.

1.2 In presenting the LINK's Annual Report (2008/09), it is intended that this will:

- Continue to raise awareness of the role and work of Leeds' LINK (both publicly and among members of the Scrutiny Board (Health));
- Provide members with more detail of what Leeds' LINK has done during its first year, alongside any future plans; and,
- Provide an opportunity for a general discussion between the Scrutiny Board (Health) and representative members of Leeds' LINK, including any work programme issues.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 gave a duty to all 150 local authorities in England with social services responsibilities, to enable the formation of a Local Involvement Network (LINK).

2.2 The LINK will act as the successor to the Patient and Public Involvement Forums, but with an extended remit covering social care. Run by local people and groups, the role of a LINK is to promote involvement; to find out what people like and dislike about local services; monitor the care provided by services; and use LINK powers to hold services to account. In summary, this will be achieved by:

- Asking local people what they think about local health and social care services, and providing a chance to suggest ideas to help improve services;

- Investigating specific issues of concern to the community;
- Using powers to hold providers and commissioners to account and get results;
- Asking for information and get an answer in a specified amount of time;
- Using authorised representatives to 'enter and view' premises to see if services are working well;
- Making reports and recommendations and receive a response;

2.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the LINK also has the right to refer both health and social care matters to the relevant Scrutiny Board. In turn, this places responsibility on the appropriate Scrutiny Board to acknowledge any such referrals and keep the LINK informed about what actions, if any, will be taken

3.0 Leeds' Local Involvement Network (LINK)

3.1 Locally, in August 2008, the Shaw Trust was appointed as the host organisation to support the work of the Leeds' LINK. Since that time it has been working with the LINK Preparatory Group to get a wide range of people and organisations involved in the LINK. In addition, an Interim Steering Group (the membership of which was drawn from the LINK Preparatory Group) was established to act as a provisional decision-making body, pending the establishment of a formal steering group (the 'core group') following appropriate elections.

3.2 The LINK was formally launched on 9 June 2009. Immediately after the launch, the election process to establish the 'core group' commenced. Following nominations, the actual election period will take place during July 2009, with the announcement of the 'core group' expected in early August 2009. Until that time the Interim Steering Group will continue to act as the decision-making body.

Annual Report

3.3 LINKs are accountable to the public and to the Secretary of State for Health. As such, every year all LINKs are required to publish an annual report, which will also be sent to the Care Quality Commission, to relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Scrutiny Boards), Primary Care Trusts (NHS Leeds) and the Strategic Health Authority (NHS Yorkshire and the Humber).

3.4 The Annual Report (2008/09) for the Leeds' LINK, covering the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, is currently being prepared and will be agreed by the Interim Steering Group. The deadline for the completion of the Annual Report (2008/09) is 30 June 2009. A copy of the Annual Report (2008/09) is attached at Appendix 1 (to follow).

3.5 Representatives from Leeds' LINK (the Interim Steering Group) have been invited to attend the meeting to both present the Annual Report and discuss any pertinent issues with the Scrutiny Board (Health).

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board (Health) are asked to consider Leeds' LINK's 2008/09 Annual Report and the discussion at the meeting, and:

- Determine any matters that will inform the Board's future work programme;
- Identify any issues that may impact/ influence the Board's longer term relationship with Leeds' LINK.

5.0 Background Papers

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007