

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Health and Well-Being and Adult Social Care)

Date: 25 July 2012

Subject: Leeds Local Involvement Network – Annual Report (2011/12)

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Board with the Annual Report of Leeds Local Involvement Network (LINK) for 2011/12, covering the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 is attached at Appendix 1. This represents the fourth annual report produced by Leeds LINK.
2. LINKs are accountable to the public and to the Secretary of State for Health. As such, all LINKs are required to publish an annual report, which is issued to a number of key stakeholders, including the Care Quality Commission, relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Scrutiny Boards) and Health Service commissioners.
3. Locally, in August 2008, the Shaw Trust was appointed as the host organisation to support the work of the Leeds' LINK. The LINK was formally launched on 9 June 2009 and since that time it has been working with the LINK to get a wide range of people and organisations involved.
4. 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 and service providers 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.

5. Provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, provides the LINK with powers 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.
6. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 makes provision for the establishment of local HealthWatch organisations (under the umbrella of HealthWatch England) as the public and patient voice within Health and Social Care services. As such, local HealthWatch will replace Leeds LINK during 2013. Members of the Scrutiny Board will be involved in two workshops (scheduled for 23 July 2012 and 30 July 2012), which are aimed at developing the vision for local HealthWatch and its relationship with the Scrutiny Board.
7. In presenting the LINK's Annual Report (2011/12), 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),
 - Provide members with more detail of Leeds' LINK activity during its third year, alongside any future plans;
 - Provide an opportunity for a discussion between the Scrutiny Board and representative members of Leeds' LINK, regarding the general relationship between the two bodies, and any issues of coordinating respective work programmes; and,
 - Further inform the Scrutiny Board's consideration of the development of the vision for local HealthWatch and its future relationship with the Scrutiny Board.
8. Representatives from Leeds LINK have been invited to attend the meeting to both present the Annual Report and discuss any pertinent issues with the Scrutiny Board.

Recommendations

9. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider Leeds' LINK's Annual Report (2011/12) and determine any matters that may inform:
 - The Scrutiny Board's future work programme;
 - The Scrutiny Board's relationship with Leeds LINK for the remainder of its existence;
 - The development of the vision for local HealthWatch and its future relationship with the Scrutiny Board; and,
 - The transition from Leeds LINK to local HealthWatch;

Background documents¹

None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.