



**Oxfordshire Local Involvement Network
Update for Adult Services Scrutiny Committee
meeting 7th Sept 2010**

Recent public, patient and carer concerns, issues and compliments collected through LINK engagement and outreach activities have been scoped and prioritised for additional 'task and finish' projects during the remainder of this year. These are described below alongside existing projects.

Ongoing projects/engagement:

Self Directed Support (Personal Budgets)

Update being presented at this meeting – see accompanying paper. Sue Butterworth and John Hutchison will represent the LINK Stewardship Group (SG). Full report will be available for the 26th October meeting.

Drug Recovery Project (DRP)

The LINK held a meeting in public on 29th June at West Oxford Community Centre to provide an update for those who attended the first LINK meeting about the DRP and to advise what has happened since. The new Residential Detoxification Project is due to be launched in the Autumn. Full reports from the LINK project group and Commissioners are available from the meeting minutes of OJHOSC and in the 2009-10 LINK Annual Report.

'Social Care' Hearsay

Following publication of the full report in June, the next update is due in September. Social & Community Services (SCS) have advised the LINK Host in detail about progress with the five priority recommendations from service users and carers and an update about improvements and changes in development will be made available to all participants and the wider LINK. From October, SCS aim to publish monthly updates on the web including performance targets. In the September update attendees of the event will be asked if they wish to attend a December meeting to ask questions of senior staff on progress. The next Hearsay event will take place in March 2011 to hear what has been achieved during the year and to set further recommendations. The full report can be obtained from the LINK office or

www.makesachange.org.uk/cms/site/news/oxfordshire/hearsay-report.aspx

'Health' Hearsay event

The LINK is in discussion with the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC) and PCT to plan a service user and carer event later in the year, focussing on particular NOC services, along similar lines to the successful Social Care event. Further details will be available shortly.

New projects:

The following have been scoped and prioritised from approximately 190 recently gathered & collated issues and will be subject to further development and invitations to form small project groups:

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Podiatry: availability of services and waiting times.

Community Mental Health Services: waiting times and availability of therapy services.

GP appointments: local systems and extended hours service.

Partnerships:

Alongside the main work programme, the LINK is working alongside various Oxfordshire groups and organisations in order to improve or develop services and to provide the LINK with a wider base of interested participants:

Oxfordshire Unlimited

Assisting in the development of this User Led Organisation for those with physical disabilities in Oxfordshire. This partnership project is providing Unlimited with the ability to develop its membership and become better known throughout the county and hence to offer to the community a key reference base for information and services in the future.

Oxfordshire Neurological Alliance (ONA)

The LINK is providing ongoing support in establishing a local branch, supporting ONA to publicise its work and raise public awareness. The LINK has helped ONA to produce promotional materials, publish a website and to provide additional channels of contact with local people.

Patient Voice

A hospital discharge procedure survey, commissioned by the LINK from Patient Voice, has been completed. A report will be presented to OJHOSC at its September meeting.

Community Chest

The LINK wants local people to have a voice and to make a change. We recognise the difficulties facing small groups & organisations with limited finances and the LINK will be offering the chance to apply for small grants (maximum £500 each). Constituted voluntary and community groups are invited to put forward proposals that meet the LINK remit and grant priorities: Engaging with local people so that they can have their say on health and social care issues that affect them personally or the population as a whole; Engaging with people who use health and social care services; Engaging with groups and organisations who are helping to supply people with appropriate health and social care services. Applications will be assessed by the LINK SG and Host representatives.

LINK Engagement and Promotion:

HealthBus Roadshow

Oxfordshire residents still have the chance to visit the HealthBus and give their views on local health and social care services. The LINK is 'driving' a HealthBus on a cross-county roadshow through the summer and autumn. The HealthBus has already visited several locations from Abingdon, Didcot, Witney and Cowley Oxford, to Bicester and Banbury and provides people with an straightforward method to have their say about the services they use in their own communities. People can find out more about the LINK, alongside other health and social care information in participation with local

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service providers. Future LINK projects will be assessed from the information gathered via the HealthBus and through feedback from other engagement and promotional activities carried out by the LINK staff team.

The **LINK Annual Report** for 2009-10 is available via the office or can be downloaded from www.makesachange.org.uk/cms/site/news/oxfordshire/oxfordshire-link-annual-report.aspx

Newsletters and bulletins can be found at www.makesachange.org.uk/cms/site/news/oxfordshire/latest-oxfordshire-link-newsletter.aspx

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