

## PROCEDURES FOR TAKING “RELEVANT DECISIONS”

### Explanatory Notes.

The Act<sup>1</sup> enables a LINK to carry out a number of activities related to health and adult social care. These are:

- (a) promoting, and supporting, the involvement of people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of local care services;
- (b) enabling people to monitor and review the standards of care and consider whether and how they could and should be improved and to review for this purpose the commissioning and provision of local care services;
- (c) obtaining the views of people about their needs for, and their experiences of, local care services; and
- (d) making
  - (i) views such as are mentioned in paragraph (c) known, and
  - (ii) reports and recommendations about how local care services could or ought to be improved, to persons responsible for commissioning, providing, managing or scrutinizing local care services.

The Regulations<sup>2</sup> require that before making the following “relevant decisions” the LINK shall make and publish its procedures for making these decisions:

How the LINK will undertake its functions  
The services in relation to which they be carried out  
The way in which the LINK spends its budget  
Whether to request information from, or to refer a report or recommendation to, a service-provider  
Which premises to enter and view?  
Whether to refer a matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Whether to refer a matter to another person

- 1 The structure for decision making is defined in the LINK Constitution. Authority to make these procedures is in the hands of the County Board.
- 2 These procedures will describe the processes used.
- 3 Central to the procedures will be the following underlying principles:
  - (a) Involving as wide as possible spectrum of the community
  - (b) Recognizing the duty of NHS commissioners and providers and the obligation on social care providers to involve the public in their decisions
  - (c) Encouraging and supporting community organizations and groups in seeking direct involvement in that decision making
  - (d) Seeking across the community views as to experiences, good and bad, of local care services and collating those views
  - (e) Using these views to initiate reviews of specific services
  - (f) Placing local views and reviews outcomes in wider context by considering more strategic aspects such as local spending patterns compared with national values and considering such factors as National Service Frameworks and NICE and similar guidance.
  - (g) Using the LINK budget to maximize the impact on the Health and Social Care of the people of Staffordshire through our chosen Performance Measures

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<sup>1</sup> The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

<sup>2</sup> The Local Involvement Network Regulations 2008