

## West Midlands LINK Network Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Issues raised and discussed:-

### **Dignity Champions and LINKs**

A presentation was made by Rita Harrison, who is funded by DoH until February 2011; the main aim of the project is:-

- To identify dignity leads in each of the 14 local authorities in West Midlands
- To establish a dignity network
- To identify action plans for all LINKs

Questions raised were:-

- Is dignity an embedded part of our 'enter and view' process?
- On Personalisation do we need to include a dignity perspective in any activities

Rita is looking to work with as many LINKs and local authorities as time will permit

### **DoH update**

Letter sent out from DoH to all local authorities providing guidance for hosting responsibilities for 2011-2012, a copy of the letter has been provided by Cat Crum.

### **White Paper Consultations**

Responses are currently being assessed but 4 main themes have apparently emerged

- Advocacy
- Transition
- LINKs being fit for purpose to evolve into HealthWatch
- Name of new organisation

It appears that neither independence nor funding made the top four!

DoH is forming a transition group but there are no details as to the makeup of the group.

### **Work of other LINKs**

**Dudley** – have been invited to sit on a transition board set up by local G P's to advise on the establishment of G P Consortia

**Walsall** – have been given until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 to satisfy the local authority that they are, as an organisation, fit for purpose to go forward into HealthWatch. The council have provided staff to work with the LINK to assist in the process.

Whilst Birmingham, Coventry, Herefordshire, Sandwell, and Shropshire also attended there is nothing of note to report.

There will be no funding available for meetings of the West Midlands network beyond February 2011, an approach is to be made to CQC who have an office in Birmingham to see if they are prepared to host and support future meetings. A representative of CQC is to be invited to next meeting to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> November.