



## Meetings/events feedback form

**Date of meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**Title of meeting:** Regional LINK Network meeting - Hosts

**Audience:** Representatives of regional LINK Host organisations.

**LINK representative(s) attending:**

Sue Baknak

**LINK representative completing feedback form:**

Sue Baknak

**Rationale** (*Why are we attending the meeting event*). Note – if you are delivering a message/presenting re: what the LINK is about this needs to complement the standard presentation. If not provide details of message given.

*Representation of Staffordshire LINK at regional network meeting – opportunity for networking, sharing best practice, updates on what other LINKs in the region are doing and issues they may be dealing with, update from Department of Health from Cat Crum.*

**What were the main issues to come out of the meeting/event from the LINK perspective?** (*List between 1 and 6 bullet points would be helpful*).

- *Earl Howe, Under Secretary of State for Health will be visiting Wolverhampton and Shropshire LINKs as interested in their models of delivery. No date confirmed by Cat.*
- *Frances Hasler (Head of Involvement, CQC) moved into DH as HealthWatch Development Lead. Cat meeting with Susan Robinson the West Midlands regional CQC lead on HealthWatch and will feedback to the group.*
- *Common themes emerging from DH regional meetings:*
  1. *LINKs setting up transition groups for HealthWatch*
  2. *Competition within voluntary sector to deliver HealthWatch*
  3. *Role of CQC/Monitor/NHS Commissioning Board re HealthWatch England/local*
  4. *Geography of HealthWatch – unitary/county LAS could be encouraged to have 1 HealthWatch/joint tendering.*
- *Policy update:*
  1. *Funding in 2011/12 will be from general allocations from formula grants – not ringfenced but will rise with inflation.*
  2. *Additional money for HW not worked out yet.*
  3. *Health Bill will be very different – biggest change to date. Consultation response will be published early December. Health Bill delayed but expected in January – Royal Assent in the Autumn but not confirmed which could delay the establishment of HealthWatch England in shadow form.*
  4. *Programme Board set up and chaired by Joan Sadler. Setting up an on-line discussion/advisory group of stakeholders. ?LINK/Host presentation – Cat to check.*
  5. *LINKs Exchange website will become HealthWatch website.*
  6. *Frances Hasler (CQC/HWE) has dedicated communications support – not budget allocation for DH to have comms support through transition to HealthWatch.*

7. *Developing transition plan, communications plan and 'modelling' LINKs. Cat asked Sue Baknak to provide an overview of the work currently being done in Staffordshire around Engaging Communities. Other LINK Host reps advised there is also development work going on in other LINKs in preparation of HealthWatch/Social enterprise etc.*
  8. *GP consortia pathfinder programmes are being developed. Question – are there any HealthWatch early adopters? Cat – none that she is aware of.*
- *LINK Annual Reports 2009/10 – Roger Halliday, Commissioning Analysis and Intelligence Team has completed the analysis but the summary has not been published yet.*
  - *Legacy planning – regional support for LINKs will end in February 2011. Cat asked what the group wanted to do. Prompted discussion of what support would be available throughout transition year but very little information forthcoming.*