



Meetings/events feedback form

Date of meeting: 30/11/2010

Title of meeting: West Midlands Link

Audience: 45 members of west midlands LINK's and 4 facilitators for such groups

LINK representative(s) attending: David Loades

LINK representative completing feedback form: David Loades

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.*

To gain information on services and current situation involving LINK's across the west midlands

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*).

- 1) **West Midlands Ambulance Update services**
- 2) **LINK's Updates**
- 3) **LINK's feedback from other area's**
- 4) **CQC & Health Watch England**
- 5) **DOH Update**
- 6) **Transition Period 2011/12**
- 7) **Importance of Annual Reports**
- 8) **Legacy Planning**
- 9) **AOB**

Action Points/How can the LINK help? (*Bullet points re: what, if any, requests for LINK help were received and from who plus who needs to follow up?*)

The meeting started of with a very detail and in-depth presentation on how the future of the West Midlands Ambulance Service may change by becoming a NHS Foundation Trust. The region as the second largest urban area in the country, but also has some of the most remote countryside with over 5.4 million population. (see Appendix A & B). This is a subject for open involvement and I feel one we should get involved with. We were also informed that the Health Bill may be pushed into January 2011 before it goes to parliament delaying the bill and making it allot closer to the march deadline before it is approved ? . I was surprised to hear how many LINK groups were not intending to move into Health Watch, but were just waiting for local groups to apply in what they see as tender process being run in August or September 2011. It was pointed out by the meeting facilitator that it looked like the LINK's Exchange web site would be adopted by the DOH as the main web site, there was quiet an objection to this in the room. The meeting had allot on the agenda but many of the items were touched on very lightly such as item 5 & 8 had no information for this meeting. Item 4 only confirmed that the Heath Watch England model will remain part of the CQC that all present appeared to be aware of and were confused as to why it was on the Agenda. When the group was asked to update no individual had allot to say when I asked why this was they were all still waiting for consultation on the future of Health Watch when I mentioned that in the mean time LINK's still had nearly 14 months to operate the group gave the impression they intended not to do much. The meeting was cut short by an hour due to the weather and after a very long and drawn out debate over the future of Mss Crum's involvement of which at the moment would end in February 2011

and she could not comment on what would happen next. It was pointed out that Age Concern would be looking at being involved with the future model and implementation in the future. Sorry that I cannot give any more detail concerning this meeting as if you look at the list of subjects it should have been a very involved meeting, but due to the lack of information concerning budgets and the way forward very little was covered and those present did not appear to want to get into any planning or further debate despite my provoking questions.