

**BIRMINGHAM LINK – BIRMINGHAM EAST & NORTH ACTION GROUP**  
**Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 25 August 2010**  
**held at Room 4 Waterlinks House, Richard Street, Aston, Birmingham B7 4AA**

**PRESENT:**

- Sangita Acharya (SA)
- Gerry Moynihan (GM)
- Paul Tovey (PT)
- Jill Hoad (JH)
- Terry Paget (TP)
- Annette Hearnden (AH)
- Dorris Spiers (DS)

**HOST FACILITATORS PRESENT:**

- Althea Daniel (AD) – Birmingham LINK Host (Minutes)
- Andrew John (AJ) – Birmingham LINK Host (Chair)

**1. APOLOGIES RECEIVED:**

- Alan Lyttle (AL)
  - Tom McLoughlin (TM)
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**2. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

AJ agreed to be functional Chair for this meeting.

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**3 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**a) Accuracy:** To change the spelling of Councillor.

**b) Matters Arising:** TP stated that the Chair for the meeting remained and should Chair for the interim period.

**Workplan Development:**

Dignity in Care: the Chairman mentioned that Dignity in Care was a worthy programme and that the group should encourage people to do it. Members were asked to read and digest the document.

**Action Group Day**

The Chair stated that, because of the nature of the action group, it was difficult to know what each person was doing and thought it was necessary to set dates and times.

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**4. BEN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY GROUP**

TP reported on his attendance at a meeting on 3 August with BEN/PPI at which dates of future meetings were obtained. However, all meeting dates were scheduled on Tuesdays, and due to prior engagements, TP was unable to attend. He further stated that the group dealt with community issues and met at a community centre in the Small Heath area. SA enquired as to the date of the next meeting and suggested that a couple of group members could attend. TP confirmed the date of the next meeting as 28 September 2010 GM stated that the person attending the meeting should be a LINK member and not a Host representative.

It was agreed that minutes from the Diversity Community Group should be sent to AJ.

**Action:**

**a) TP to send minutes of the Diversity Community Group to AJ.**

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## **5. HEALTHWATCH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS**

AJ circulated a paper regarding Kent HealthWatch and explained to the group that Kent HealthWatch was a different concept as opposed to the LINK concept.

AH stated that BEN had to be careful not to lose the things that it found valuable. She further stated that the Government expected local people to take on huge responsibilities, e.g. CAB, complaints, etc were things of significance. The signposting had been done by the PAL's team. BEN had the expertise and knowledge. AH explained that the PAL's manager would be happy to talk to the group to discuss such things as typologies and database. AH stated that the Government wanted LINK to evolve into a bigger organisation. HealthWatch would become an advice and information resource for local people in Birmingham who had complaints and would enable them to get through to the right services.

PT responded to AH by mentioning the way that BEN proceeded and the need to constitutionalise something for BEN and Birmingham LINK. He stated that the key issue should be what would work in the here and now. PT expressed the need to inherit the best parts of PPI and suggested moving quickly in order that something might be produced.

TP outlined the extract of an email that he had sent to AJ. Having gone through the document, TP had prepared personal observations having read the White Paper. He added that Gateway was putting on seminars for the purpose of discussing the White Paper and added that the point was that Birmingham Link should get responses through and that time was of the essence as it was necessary to feed BEN issues to Birmingham LINK so that a collective response was made.

GM asked whether Birmingham LINK could devote time and effort into this exercise. He agreed that, whilst the White Paper and the discussion was a priority, LINK had done little for health and social care. There was a need to ask if Community HealthWatch could do the job. There was no indication of how members could go ahead. Extracts from the HealthWatch document was read by TP and, in particular, Item 9 on page 3 which caused concern. GP stated that the White Paper made it clear that they wanted to hear from anybody and everybody. AJ informed the group that there were sessions to be held on 6 September (6.30 – 8.30pm) and 8 September (1.30 – 3.30pm) – venues to be clarified. AJ further stated that the sessions were open to LINK members who wanted to attend. AJ stated that before the beginning of October something had to go to the Department of Health. It was suggested that two or three sessions on HealthWatch. It was important to get responses to Birmingham LINK. He further stated that the Government were looking for large and corporate responses to the White Paper.

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## **6. WORKPLAN DEVELOPMENT**

AJ distributed the Workplan and stated that the Workplan was about achieving something and that it was prepared on a task basis, breaking down projects into manageable sizes and at the same time being an easy reference point.

PT stated that Ashram Housing Association was looking at the report and wondered whether BEN could do more work to the services that they provide. It was stated that the Mental Health Group were advising the group that it was necessary to put one of the reports in all the cultural languages. PT proposed to put the report in the Workplan and put his request in writing.

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## **7. HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

SA stated that many people did not realise the effects of depression. PT mentioned that access to therapists must be other than through GPs. IAPT was supposed to be on the National Health. AJ asked if members could identify up to five projects. AH stated that the Care project had not been shelved and that Martin Prichard would be happy to attend any upcoming meetings arranged by the local groups. PT requested 'Opt Out' forms from a local surgery but the staff were unaware of the forms. PT agreed to follow up.

### **Actions:**

- a) PT to follow-up 'opt out' forms.**
  - b) Group to identify up to five projects and inform AJ.**
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## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a) AH stated that Pharmacy Needs Assessment came through to LINKs. They had been approached by BADGER who was keen to get patient involvement in forming a reference group. AH further stated that the Director wished to speak to the LINK group regarding a new service to be set up at Good Hope Hospital for the elderly with complex needs. This service would involve staff working with people to become as independent as they wished. The group was informed that the Trust had established a Privacy and Dignity Programme with an accountability framework. AJ asked AH to look at website. JH and TM attended the meeting and asked for typologies. Half day workshops were being offered and the group would be welcome. AH to email AJ on this matter.

b) DS reported on her visit to the Centre in Erdington.

### **Actions:**

- a) AH to look at website concerning the new service at Good Hope Hospital.**
  - b) AH to email AJ on result of meeting at Good Hope Hospital.**
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## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am at Waterlinks.** AH to advise of room booking and to look into car parking spaces for the group for the next meeting.

### **Actions:**

**a) AH to inform AJ of room booked and car parking arrangements.**