

BIRMINGHAM LINKS – BIRMINGHAM EAST AND NORTH ACTION GROUP
Minutes from meeting held on Thursday 5th May 2011, 11.00– 1.00
ENTA, Mill Wharf, 10 Mill St. B6 4BS

PRESENT:

- Terry Paget (TP) (Chair)
- Tom McLoughlin – YIP (TM)
- Doris Spiers (DS)
- Annette Hearnden (AH)
- Jill Hoad (JH)

HOST FACILITATORS PRESENT:

- Andrew John (AJ) – Gateway Family Services (Facilitator)
- Claire Lockey (CL) – Gateway Family Services (Minute Taker)

APOLOGIES RECEIVED:

- No apologies received

1. ELECTION OF PERMANENT CHAIR

- 1.1 TP explained that the agenda as circulated was different to that which he had submitted to the Host. Accordingly, he asked for this item to be added to the agenda to discuss what is expected of the Chair and the Chair's responsibilities. He explained that there should be a Workplan for each Action Group and to date TP has not come across a Workplan for this Group. Further, the Chair should ensure that the Action Group is represented on the CLOG. Finally, the Group should produce something to contribute to the Birmingham LINK Annual Report.
- 1.2 It was agreed that TP would Chair the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 7TH APRIL 2011

- 2.1. Accuracy
TP and TM sent their suggested amendments to the Host, which have been incorporated in the minutes. Members agreed the minutes to be a true record.
- 2.2. Matters Arising
AH reported she has organised a meeting with Cure NHS Group for those who are involved with the review. AH received an excellent response since 11 members would like to meet with this Action Group and rather than pick individuals AH has organised a get together and therefore booked the Board Room at Blakelands House, Aldridge Road with ample parking for Thursday 9th June 2011 (2.00 – 5.00 p.m.). AH advised if the date and time is not convenient, it can be rescheduled. DS advised she would prefer it to be earlier but would be able to attend the last half hour. AH said it will be an informal group and individuals can drop-in to meet each other and tea/coffee will be provided.
Action: AH to email full details to CL/AJ to circulate to members and members to notify the Host of any items they wish to add onto the agenda.
- 2.3 (Remaining with this subject) TP suggested if they could give us a 10mins slot to address their members regarding the HealthWatch Transition so they understand what is anticipated. AH said would it be helpful for this group for them to advise us of what they do etc. TP suggested having 10/15 mins for all topics to be discussed e.g. presentation talk in the course of the afternoon. AH agreed to email the agenda to them and once confirmed she will forward to the LINK. AH gave a brief summary of the group who contacted BEN Action Group since they were not being heard at the hospital and wanted

someone to listen. We have therefore listened and are taking forward what we can to the Trust and there is a good dialogue. JH said when circulating to members we need a bit of background so they understand what we do. TP asked AJ if this would be classified as a LINK Event and would members be able to claim expenses etc? AJ confirmed it is an engagement event and members would therefore be able to claim expenses.

- 2.3. HealthWatch Update – TP said the statute that forms LINKs states the Local Authority cannot be a LINK and cannot be a Host so therefore Birmingham City Council cannot run a LINK and would like that amendment known. AJ advised Gateway finish their full LINK activity on 30th June and with effect from 1st July there will be x1 Senior Administrator and x1 Facilitator remaining and all other staff will be moving on either through redundancy or onto other posts. Furthermore, Birmingham City Council is putting together a tender document for a Maintenance Contract where they will maintain LINK from 1st October 2011. AJ reported he had raised with Birmingham City Council several questions and is still awaiting a response regarding the period between July – October, since effectively there will be no LINK activity available. Moreover, if there is no activity for 3mths LINK will lose a lot of its momentum. TP referred to the Health & Public Involvement 2007 Act in particular highlighting sections 221 and 222. DS asked if there is any Councillor involvement? AJ said they all should be involved in practice and the most relevant Councillors are Cllr Tillsley Deputy Leader and Cllr Anderson as this is within their portfolio. It was noted that Rose Keeley is the contact for Cllr. Deidre Oldham.
- 2.4 Discharge Planning – AJ reported that all focus groups have now been undertaken and interviews scheduled to conclude Mid-June. Draft report will be cascaded and currently this seems to be going really well as a good response has been received. AH said in relation to this subject at a previous meeting she attended, the “Home from Hospital” voluntary service discussed this and AH asked the POW (Pregnancy Outreach Worker) Service if this is still going on. They (Home from Hospital) are still going and cover 85% support to Birmingham and offer support in respect of discharge. Furthermore, the POW Team said they were not aware that the service exists and they were happy to map other services to link into the Project.
- Action: members agreed this would be good and POW to be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss their service in detail.**

3. DR. RICHARD MENDELSON (DISINVESTMENT PRESENTATION)

- 3.1 Dr. Richard Mendelsohn (Clinical Director Chronic Disease Systems) attended to undertake a presentation regarding Disinvestment – please refer to full presentation handout.
- 3.2 CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) – discussion took place regarding £160k is paid to Acorns for supported care for families and children, which did not score highly however they did form part of the Third Sector process.
- 3.3 Third Sector Review Process – RM reported they have looked at the portfolio and said anything over £50k cost improvement of 1% and generally will review all of those contracts.
- 3.4 TP referred to the amount and quality of information, which is very comprehensive, and said how impressed he was with the speed with which the information had been compiled, given the ability to take a view and look at specific areas. In making reference to and acknowledging these features, TP also made reference to a document entitled “NHS Future Forum”, the contents of which had a bearing on the data as presented by TM.

- 3.5 AJ raised there is no potential for impact and asked if there was a waiting list mechanism where there is a potential impact. RM said they did not look at it like that and in terms of potential we are aware that we spend a lot of time thinking about potential.
- 3.6 TP asked on behalf of the Group and Host whether we need an overview in 12mths time as a consequence of the changes and a more thorough review would be appropriate. Members felt this would be good. **(To be diaried forward).**
- 3.7 RM asked the group what further update they would require. TL said he would like to see a list of all the services that have been considered to look at the scoring, evaluation and split between Third and Voluntary Sector Services. TP said we need to encourage and invite involvement from March 2012 onwards in some form of review so that members can go out amongst peers in order to provide feedback. RM said he has no objection to sharing the detail however it is a bit overwhelming so he could arrange a separate meeting in order to go through the information but he would need to seek approval beforehand. The spreadsheet could be anonymous and shared at a session.
Action: JH and TL to attend a session in the future.
- 3.8 TP thanked RM for attending and giving the group a detailed presentation.
-

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 4.1 DS reported an event due to be held at Birmingham Assist Centre in Ladywood titled "Living with Disability beyond the Impairment" organised by Spokz People on Wednesday 25th May at 11.00 a.m. **Action Host to contact Birmingham Assist to ascertain full details and circulate to members.**
- 4.2 DS shared information regarding a Pain Fatigue Support Group she will be attending on 2nd June 2011, which clashes with the next BEN Action Group.
Action: Host to circulate full details and upload information onto the LINK website.
- 4.3 BEN Action Group Annual Report Year Ending 31st March 2011 – copy circulated at the meeting. AH said it was a fair report and we should be proud of what we have achieved as a group. JH said she feels we were overshadowed with the changes with the NHS and is grateful to the group to hear all the information shared. TP asked the group if there was anything within the report that they felt should be altered in order to submit to the Host accordingly. TL said it is a fair summary of what has taken place over the last several years. TP asked if members present were happy with the content so the draft report can be adopted. All members present were happy with content and agreed to adopt the draft report.
-

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 5.1 Thursday 2nd June 2011, 11.00 – 1.00 p.m. venue to be confirmed
- 5.2 Discussion took place regarding the meeting scheduled for 30th June 2011. TP asked for consideration about this meeting potentially being brought forward due to the Host ceasing their activity with effect from 30th June 2011?
Action: Host to confirm.