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Date: 22nd June 2010

Manjit Singh
Chair – Heart of Birmingham Action Group
Birmingham LINK
C/o Gateway Family Service CIC
Radclyffe House
66 – 68 Hagley Road,
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Dear Manjit,

Heart of Birmingham Action Group

Thank you for your letter dated 7th June 2010 regarding the future of the LINK.

I understand the importance of your question about the future intentions of Birmingham City Council regarding the Birmingham LINK. Considerable hard work has gone on to set up a LINK from both volunteer members and Gateway staff.

All eyes and ears are focused on central government at the moment to gain some insight to the future for LINK. John Barnes, Core Group member attended an event in London on the 8th June where Andrew Lansley, the Secretary of State for Health, talked about public and patient involvement in the NHS. I have attached a copy of his speech. An article also appeared in the Health Service Journal following the speech which may also interest you.

When it is clear from central government how it wishes to go forward and the resources available, Birmingham City Council and its health service partners will consider the options. These options will be discussed at the LINK Advisory Group. Volunteer members of the Core group actively participate in this meeting and will both represent the views of the LINK and feed back decisions and questions to the LINK. To ensure that the action group's viewpoint is considered please work with the Core group members of the LINK Advisory Group.

National Indicator 4 is measured by the Birmingham City Council's Annual Opinion Survey, asking people whether they feel they can influence decision making in the city. As a result of having a LINK and providing a means of addressing issues about health and social care the aim is that this will improve the response to this question. The specific impact of the LINK is not measured for this particular indicator. Further information about the Annual Opinion Survey can be found on the Beheard Database by typing Annual opinion survey in the search box. The most recent survey finding available is for 2008.

Yours sincerely



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Enc.

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