

Gateshead LINK
Steering Group
Thursday 3rd March 2011
St Chad's Community Project
10am – 1pm

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:

Kay Parker	Resident
Christine Squires	Resident
Norah Stevens	PCT Public Involvement Gateshead Locality Lead
Dave Wallace	Resident
Anthony Atkinson	Resident
Andi Parker	Gateshead Council Involvement Officer
Bill Llewellyn	Resident
Maria Hall	Resident

In Attendance:

Richard Jenks	LINK Coordinator
Linda Thompson	LINK Administrator

Apologies:

Valerie Hodge	Resident
Lucia Hiden	Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust Involvement Lead
Ethel Donnelly	Resident
Kim Newton	LINK Engagement & Involvement Officer
Anya Simpson	Development Worker, Gateshead Mental Health Forum
Glenys Goodwill	Resident
Gretel Keadell	Resident

The meeting started at 10.10 am. Christine Squires agreed to chair the meeting as had been agreed at the previous meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 3rd February were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Engagement Work with young people

It has become clear that Healthwatch will be engaging with children and young people. KN and GH attended a LINK briefing day on 24th February on this subject. There will be great differences in approach when working with people under the age of 25. KN has a meeting today with a group of younger people with learning disabilities.

Gateshead LINK Budget – preliminary

AA said that he didn't find the presentation of the budget information very clear. He would prefer year to date figures and projections of spending up to the year end. RJ said it would be possible to look at ways of making the financial information more accessible, working with GVOC's Finance Officer, and would welcome input from the Steering Group. This is to be given priority.

Action RJ/AA

BL joined the meeting at 10.20 am

JSNA Priorities

CS reported that JSNA priorities will become the lead document/master plan from April onwards. RJ represents the LINK at the JSNA meetings and will report back on the next JSNA meeting at the next Steering Group Meeting.

3. Healthwatch

The Gateshead Council Budget meeting takes place today. Gev Pringle had formally sent a letter to David Bunce for clarification of Gateshead LINK funding and in response a meeting has been arranged. Although there is still no formal confirmation there does seem to be an assumption that Gateshead LINK will continue and evolve into Healthwatch.

RJ talked about the new Gateshead Council Health & Wellbeing Board. There is a statutory right for a LINK representative to sit on that board which RJ thought ought to be a Steering Group member rather than a member of staff. This was agreed.

MH joined the meeting at 10.35 am

CS reported that she had attended a User Lead Organisation meeting where Healthwatch was discussed. There was an implication that LINK/Healthwatch could be entitled to 2 places on the board. This was discussed.

Also discussed was the question of increasing involvement from different user groups. MH suggested contacting the various user groups with the aim of generating more involvement with Healthwatch.

During a discussion on selecting a member of the Steering Group to sit on the Health & Wellbeing Board, MH asked for clarification on how representatives to sit on partnership boards and to attend meetings and events were chosen. During the discussion of this issue it was agreed that every member of the Steering Group ought to have the opportunity to attend meetings/partnership boards in which they have an interest. In the past this system has worked well. However, if an instance arises where more than one person is interested in attending an event or partnership board and places are limited, it was agreed that a vote be taken as to which individual or individuals attend. In a situation where time is short, it was agreed that the vote could be done by email.

4. Steering Group Planning Day Feedback

Notes taken on the day were circulated to the group. It was agreed that the venue had not been very accessible for wheelchair users. AP asked for a verbal update which was given and then discussed. It is still not possible to make any firm plans until the budget is agreed. There was a short discussion about the need for working groups. It was agreed that the Steering Group should be guiding the Working Groups but specific issues and details should only be discussed within the working group. Personalisation issues brought up at the Steering Group will be taken back to the working group. RJ said that some of the working groups were in a position to be wound up shortly as their particular pieces of work are almost complete.

5. Mental Health First Aid Training

The training that was cancelled at very short notice in February has been re-arranged for 14th & 15th April. Instead of using Mind, the training is being facilitated by Karen Scott at Gateshead PCT. A venue has not yet been arranged. The Steering Group were asked if they wished to attend. It will be opened up to a wider field once all of the Steering Group have been asked.

Action LT

6. Person Centred Planning – Gateshead LINK Request

RJ gave an update on the situation. It will be brought up as an agenda item at the next OSC meeting (Angela Frisby has been informed of this). AA and MH will also attend.

7. Mental Health & Well Being Event

The Mental Health Working Group has decided to hold this event to raise awareness of the model of care. The event was postponed last year. It will take place on 19th May at Gateshead Old Town Hall and will raise awareness of mental health & well being. Plans so far include; speakers, information stalls/stands and a performance by The Little Cats theatre group. Work is continuing around the theme, programme and speakers. All Steering Group members will be invited.

8. Working Groups Up-date

Hospital Discharge Procedures

RS had a meeting with Nichola Russell (Modern Matron at the QE) regarding the disappointing return rate of the Hospital Discharge Questionnaire. A Draft report is to be produced using the information we already have. This is to be taken to the next Hospital Discharge Procedures Working Group.

Transition into Adult Services

The last meeting was cancelled. AA reported an ITV Fixer programme he had watched which contained an item about transition. MH reported that the Childrens' Disability Team is not prioritising Person Centred Plans.

9. Policies Due for Review

Mental Health Working Group – Terms of Reference

The document had been taken to the last meeting of the Mental Health working Group who had suggested some changes. These changes were agreed and will be made. **Action LT**

Governance Document

The whole document was not available and therefore it was decided to review this document at the next meeting of the Steering Group.

11. Members Reports

KP attended the PUCPI meeting and gave feedback on the GATNET (GP commissioning) discussion which took place. GATNET would like more public

representation on the board and the LINK could help to facilitate this. It is hoped to develop a strong working relationship between LINK and GATNET but, the LINK has no formal right of representation on the GATNET board. AP also gave feedback from the meeting. BL expressed concern that there are still not enough community groups involved and NS responded to this. Also reported on was Crossroads "Take a Break", PCT funding and Maggie Woodward who talked about health checks.

DW reported on the GCN meeting he had attended. There was discussion about the "Our Gateshead" website. It was agreed to ask Mark from GCN to give a presentation to GP's about this. **Action RJ**

MH gave feedback from the transition Steering Group. There is still a great deal of uncertainty in teams. Gateshead Council is running a pilot scheme for a new "Living & Learning" project, a government initiative. Information about this needs to be disseminated to voluntary organisations, schools and individuals. A new transport policy is being developed.

MH also gave feedback from Learning Disabilities Partnership Board. There was concern about members not attending the meeting. Inclusion North has taken over from Disability Partner Regional Groups. She reported how groups are helping members to complete the Census form and also development of GATNET. There was also a funding cut for Employment Opportunities for Disabled People.

Feedback from Health & Social Care Partnership Board – still a great deal of uncertainty because of the cuts. There is a new 5 year plan with priorities of alcohol and drug abuse, and prevention/early intervention suicide support for families. Social care fees will be increased by 15%.

A 15 minute lunch break was taken at 12.15 pm

11. Issues/concerns Log

KP reported issues with patient transport by ambulance and advised people to look at "Health & Travel Cost Scheme" regarding the claiming back of travel costs for eligible patients. This document is to be located and linked to the LINK website. **Action RD**

12. Any Other business

User Lead and LINKs Conference on 28th February

CS gave feedback from this. There are 50,000 people involved nationwide who have instigated 300 service improvements. There followed some discussion about the role of regional LINKs/Healthwatch. RJ said that their role was for information sharing and not for decision making

AP left at 12.45 pm

Gateshead LINK Development

BL was concerned about the organisational development of LINK/Healthwatch. CS replied that these issues had already been discussed at the Planning Day on 10th February. No firm plans can be made until next year's budgets are confirmed. RJ said it was likely there would be a meeting next week to talk about the transition to Healthwatch – until then nothing could be done. It was agreed that RJ would inform the Steering Group as soon as any news became available.

Action RJ

BL & AA left the meeting at 1.00 pm

Training

MH asked about commissioning training. RJ replied there was no news yet. It was agreed that if training can be identified then dates be set.

Action RJ

Mental Health Directory

MH asked about the current status of the directory. This is to be followed up.

Action KN

Enter & View

RJ reported that the visit to Chainbridge had been a good on and very productive. A wide ranging total of 20 patients were talked to as well as GP's, practice managers and other staff. A meeting is to take place on Tuesday 8th March to discuss the report which will be done as soon as possible. Chainbridge Medical Practice are also keen to receive feedback.

Action RJ/KP/DW/MH

NS asked how patient satisfaction is recorded. She was told that this forms part of the report.

Martin Lewis Money Website

KP reported that a new booklet "Mental Health & Debt" was advertised on the above site.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 7th April at GVOG. It was proposed that AA chair this meeting which was agreed. The meeting closed at 1.45 pm.