

The Local Involvement Network (LINK) for Rotherham

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Progress to date

- Getting Ready for LINKs working group – this has now been extended to include PPI forum members, PCT and Hospital Trust Reps
- Meeting of working group 20th February considered:
 - Shortlisting
 - Development of specification and evaluation criteria
 - Identification of participants in procurement process e.g. evaluation and interview panel
 - Consideration re setting up a Links Transition Steering Group made up of lay people which would be responsible for starting to develop the LINK supported by the working group

Consultation event Feb 25th 2008

- **AIM:** To enable stakeholders in Rotherham to understand the role and core responsibilities of the LINK and the host organisation and to influence how the LINK develops in Rotherham
- **OBJECTIVES:**
 1. To clarify the role of the Local Involvement Network
 2. To clarify the different methods of participation that might be used to ensure involvement from all communities, networks and organisations in Rotherham
 3. Begin to identify a model for the LINK, buiding in flexibility.
 4. To identify the priority criteria that should be included in the contract for the host organisation.
- Opportunity to secure volunteers for steering group

Role of Steering Group

- To establish a structure for the LINK. This would involve the agreement of procedures which could include:
 - Prioritisation of issues to be investigated by the LINK
 - Annual Report production
 - ‘Host’ contract performance management
 - Agreeing reports from sub-groups
- To agree working processes between different parts of the LINK.
- To formulate a recruitment process for members.
- To establish membership criteria (possibly including different levels of membership).

Role of Steering Group

- To put together protocols for engagement with other bodies
- To help establish a process of assessment of the performance of the LINK (self-assessment)
- To create methods of collecting and reacting to views of patients and the public.
- To put together a conflict resolution process to include members, 'host' and external parties.
- To create methods to ensure that the LINK is transparent and accountable to local people
- To work with the Local Authority to create a contract for a 'host' which reflects the local requirements of the Rotherham LINK.

Procurement Timeline

- Early December 2007- advertised contract for Host let through European tendering processes
- January 25th closing date for submission Pre tender questionnaire (5 responses - 1 Since withdrawn)
- March 2008 – Invitations to tender issued
- May 2008 – tender evaluation and interviews (Councillor Hussain and Councillor Doyle involved in interviews and contract award)
- End May – Aug 2008 – host to set up LINK
- August LINK up and running

What you can do

- Proactively raise awareness of LINks in your organisations, networks & health communities
- Supporting us in sharing your skills and experience of patient and public engagement
- Ensure we don't duplicate existing networks
- Help us to plan the LINk for example by volunteering to join the steering group.
- Information will be circulated on this at end of February

Contact details

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Any Comments or Questions?