

- Other Chief Officers David Carter,
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION Yes

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Agenda No

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 28th March, 2007.

Report of Health OSC and PPI Forum Event, 19th January 2007

Report of the Performance and Development Directorate

Recommendations

1. That the committee considers the report, actions suggested at the workshop and feedback from the event
2. That the committee make any further recommendations it considers necessary that may assist the transitional arrangements for LINKs

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of the event, on the 19th January 2007, was primarily to bring both Health OSC and PPI Forum members together to discuss the new arrangements for LINKs and look at possibilities for joint working such as the NHS Local Delivery Plans.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the committee:
 - Considers the report, actions suggested at the workshop and feedback from the event
 - Make any further recommendations it considers necessary that may assist the transitional arrangements for LINKs

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27 February 2007

'Learning the Lessons, Handling the Change: Working in Partnership'

Health OSC and PPI Forum Event - 19th January 2007

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In July 2006, the government published A Stronger Local Voice: 'A framework for creating a stronger local voice in the development of health and social care services'. The new arrangements discussed in the document will eventually replace the present model of a PPI forum by **Local Involvement Networks (LINks)**. The government also made it clear that there will be closer working between LINks and Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- 1.2 The aim of the event, on the 19th January 2007, was primarily to bring both Health OSC and PPI Forum members together to discuss these new arrangements via presentations and workshops and look at what would help the transition to the new structure.
- 1.3 In addition the PPI Forum members requested presentations on the internal governance arrangement of both Warwickshire County Council and the NHS and how both organisations commission services relating to health. (Copies of the presentations are available on request)

2. Delegates View of the Day

- 2.1 Around seventy people attended the event and the feedback indicated that most delegates found the event useful. They appreciated the opportunity to listen to presentations and engage in the workshop discussions. However, the feedback from PPI Forum members at the end of the event, still indicates that they are concerned about how the new LINks would work. This may be partly due to the apparent lack of guidance on how LINks will be structured or funded and concerns on whether they will retain their independence.

These are some of the comments made by PPI Forum members:

- The role of LINks seems to have two masters. What control is there to ensure the LINks budget is spent on LINks activities
- Changes equate money. I really question so many changes – is it really value for money?
- Question the size of proposed LINks is it really workable?
- Workshop did not tell us anything. With WCC having financial control how will LINks have equal say?
- The wheel was a wonderful invention!! So in time we will get back to where we started and waste a lot of money
- We are all very concerned at the prospect of yet more administrative layers being added to an already groaning system

- 2.2 On a positive note the representative from the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health did recognise that the PPI Forums already had a good working relationship with Warwickshire County Council, Health OSC. The representative from CPPIH suggested that the PPI Forums should consider being involved with LINKs sooner and become a 'self adopter'. At the moment there are seven 'early adopter' (pilots) for LINKs in the country.

3. Feedback from Workshops

3.1 Workshop 1 - What issues do PPI Forum have for the future & possible solutions?

Solutions identified from this workshop were the following:

1. Ring fence the money for LINKs
2. Restore our independence
3. Maintain existing monitoring rights

3.2 Workshop 2 - Working together with the Annual Healthcheck.

Actions to be taken forward from this workshop were:

1. Ensure that there is three way communications between Trusts, PPI, OSC.
2. All communications should be at least 2 way
3. Timely feedback with timescale for actions
4. Linked workstreams
5. A 'non-jargon' explanation of what each core standard means

Keep communication channels open – learning and understanding each group – keep on keeping on!

3.3 Workshop 3 - Exploring working together on topics.

Actions suggested to take forward were:

1. Identify joint projects (HOSC/PPIF) and agree procedures for prioritising the issues raised based on benefit to the local community.
2. Work with NHS organisations to develop a formal procedure for engagement in the consultation process to enable early dialogue to take place on commissioning decisions.
3. Identify mechanisms to improve community engagement.

3.4 Workshop 4 - Learning the lessons, handling the change: best practice to take forward and suggestions for dealing with change

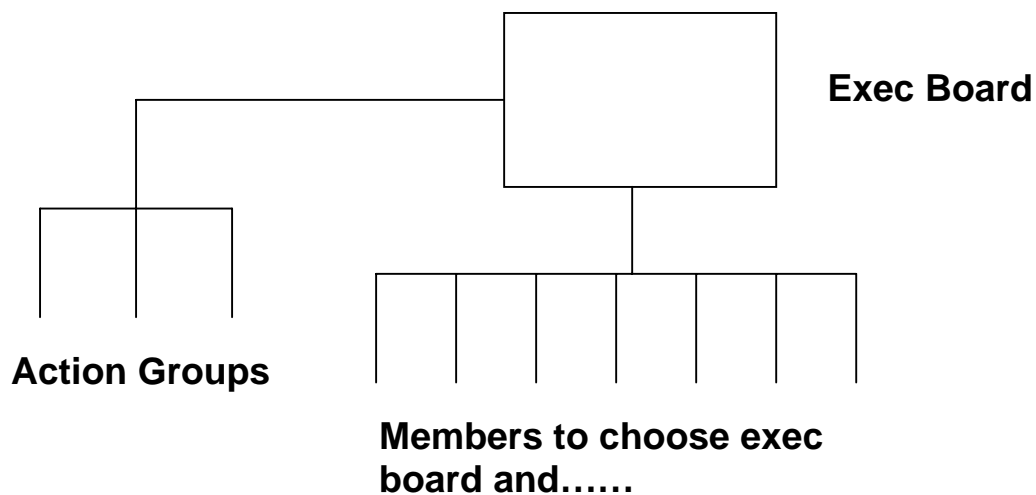
The workshop did not come up with any actions to take forward as they felt that the Forums and the OSC were working together well already. However they did come up with the following suggestions on how LINKs could work.

1. Breaking each LINKs down into localities within nominated local authority.
2. Possibility of theme groups within the LINKs rather than localities.
3. Would enable them to react to issues as they arise.

3.5 Workshop 5 - What should LINKs look like?

After considering what organisations would be involved in LINKs this workshop produced a structure taking into account the following points raised during the discussion.

- Organisation to send representatives
- Local groups report to a central group
- Central group allocates tasks to local groups
- Groups for each locality/trust/premises
- Different demographics



4. Health OSC Work Programme

4.1 All workshops spent the last 15 minutes to choose topics they would like considered for Health OSC work programme. The topics identified were:

- Jointly look at the relocation of services traditionally based in hospitals moving into community locations, and consider:- the location, ease of access and the necessary changes to transport arrangements to facilitate this process.
- Scrutinise trusts financial position
- Check on whether NHS using patient feedback
- Investigate commissioning by following patient pathway for specific conditions
- Development of Community based services
- Spearhead status
- Social rehabilitation
- Funding for preventative medicine

- Funding for new drugs

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Most of the delegates found the event very useful in providing information and an opportunity to discuss working together, but did highlight the concerns around the new arrangements for LINKs.
- 5.2 It is clear that LINKs will still go ahead despite the concerns raised, but a possible way forward would be for the PPI Forums to consider becoming 'self adopter'.
- 5.3 Many of the actions from the workshops suggested in section 3 could help the transition to the new LINKs. Also they identified areas where the existing PPI Forum members and Health OSC could work together before the new arrangements come into force.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the committee considers the report, actions suggested at the workshop and feedback from the event
- 6.2 That the committee make any further recommendations it considers necessary that may assist the transitional arrangements for LINKs