

Executive Committee

Date: 29.11.11

Time: 18:00

Location: Ladywell Leisure Centre

MEMBERS: Graham Trice (Chair); Martin Howie; Elsa Pascal; Rosie Fooks; Jennifer Cole; Philippe Granger; Sally Niblett; Carolyn Denne; Sue Parks;

Also Present: Frances Hasler, DH; Fiona Scaife & Ruth Lyon, Power ICAS

Facilitator: Miriam Long, Host

| | | Action |
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| 1 | Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence | |
| | Apologies were received from Val Fulcher; Brian Fisher; Geraldine Richards and Jane Keane | |
| 2 | Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising | |
| | <p>The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the last meeting. Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EC skills audit, members were reminded to complete and return ASAP ➤ Emails circulated to members show contact details as agreed at the last meeting has been actioned. ➤ Half yearly projected accounts to be provided by 30 September. This to be actioned ASAP. | ML |
| 3 | HealthWatch (HW) Transition | |
| | <p>MH informed that the governance group had met the previous week following the Away Day and the Extraordinary Meeting on 8 November and although no clear decisions have been made, the governance group favour the independent model of a charitable organisation as recommended by Russell Cooke Solicitors. As HW is proposed to start in October 2012 we could request that the host contract be extended to the end of September 2012 to allow time to set up as at charitable organisation, limited by guarantee.</p> <p>MH reported that although the SSLG had ended it would be replaced by a HW transition board with the same membership as the SSLG. Ed Knowles, LBL Policy Manager was working on the terms of reference for this board which should be a platform for negotiating HW funding etc.</p> <p>Parkwood senior managers to be invited to meet with the executive to discuss transition arrangements and transparency.</p> <p>MH then introduced Frances Hasler, HealthWatch Policy Team. Frances explained that she previously worked for the CQC as the HW England development lead and has 25 years experience of working the voluntary sector.</p> <p><u>Function and Role</u></p> <p>FH informed that HW role will be similar to LINKs, as the voice of local people, and will continue to conduct enter and view visits. In fact HW will do everything that LINK does now and more as HW will be part of the decision making process, having a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board. HW will be funded by the local authority. Committed volunteers will make up the core group of HW</p> | |

just as they do now in LINK. The spirit of HW as is LINK is people and contacts. HW will also provide information to people and signpost to give them the information needed to make informed decisions. HW will focus on people who find it difficult to access information by using standard means including technology.

FH stated that HW may be commissioned by local authorities to provide NHS complaints advocacy either borough wide or regional. There were concerns regarding the NHS Complaints system which is supposed to join up health and social care; however it was felt that joint complaints were not handled very well.

However, the bill is still with the House of Lords and there are many amendments being added to the bill. The bill may make recommendations about membership of HW for example members must be fully representative of the local community but it is not expected to set firm regulations about organisational forms of local HW. Members were asked to consider functions and outcomes of HW. The House of Lords decision will be made in January 2012 before being sent back to the House of Commons for the Bill to become an Act of Parliament. There will be a 6 month for LINKs as the law under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 will not change

Marketing

The Department of Health is working with a marketing company to develop a universal HealthWatch brand for all local HW. However, there will be no national advertising campaign due to cost. HW was considered by the DH to be a memorable name and would be easy for the public to identify with. Members of the committee expressed concerns that the HW title may exclude people with social care issues or concerns. FH reiterated that people do not care about titles as long as they get the support they need and that national branding will help to raise awareness of the health and social care remit of HW.

A single HW brand, locally and nationally will help people to identify who and what HW is. Local HW will not need to develop their own brands. A universal HW logo will be available from June 2012.

Support

The Department of Health (DH) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be supporting the development of HW. The CQC will host HW England and is working to progress work with LINKs as they develop into HW.

A learning network is currently being set up for HW Pathfinders of which Lewisham LINK is one. David Behan, Director General of Patient and Public Engagement DH is the Health and Wellbeing Board lead. HW Pathfinders will join HWBB Pathfinder for joint learning.

Regional support in London is being coordinated by Ian Winter, Natasha Cooper and Linda Tarkie. Ian Winter has secured some funding for HW Pathfinders in London. ML to contact IW and team regarding funding.

Local Authority LINK Leads have a responsibility along with HWBB to engage with local community about what people want from HW. This will inform commissioning decisions in respect HW and NHS complaints and advocacy services.

Funding

Central Government funding for HW will be paid to local authorities in the same

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| | <p>way as LINK funding and is not ring fenced. The funding for LINK was £205k in 2011 however the overall council grant was reduced and this impacted on funding made available to LINK which was reduced to £100k. FH explained that the DH contribution to local authorities formula grant actually rose this year but other central government grants had been reduced. Accurate formula grant figures can be found on the Department of Communities website. Local authorities decided how to deploy their formula grant. This is in accordance with the Localism Bill. HW to maximise community functions and represent the community on the HWBB. HW must be of value to the community. Members asked how central government will ensure that HW delivers if funding is not secure. FH replied that HW England will have a role in supporting local HW.</p> <p>HW will be commissioned by the local authority but where LINKs have not functioned well the LA may want to appoint paid HW representatives. Lewisham LINK is a functioning HW pathfinder and has provided training and guidance to other LINKs.</p> <p>MH thanked FH for her explanation and reiterated that Lewisham LINK has a positive relationship with the local authority and other statutory sector partners. We need to be clear about our position regarding the organisation of HW. Members were pleased about the development of a national HW brand. But different organisational structures and functions will look different. The aim is for LINKs to morph seamlessly into HW.</p> | |
| 4 | Members and Hosts Update | |
| | <p>GT: Visited patients in Elm Ward and reported identified issues. GT represented the LINK at LHNT Patient Experience Steering Committee and reported issues collated through outreach. The senior matron will follow up on these issues.</p> <p>EP: LEMP held a successful BME health event focussing on Sickle Cell. A summary report is available in the LEMP newsletter.</p> <p>SP: Lewisham Mencap has moved back to premises in Lee High Road.</p> <p>MH: The VAL/ LINK joint event and voluntary sector representative elections is taking place on 7 December, 9.30 – 12.30 at St. Laurence Community Centre, Catford.</p> <p>GT and SP reported back from the Integrated Community Health Committee where 9 serious incidents of grade 3 pressure ulcers was discussed. These were attributed to care at: 1- hospital, 1- patient's home, 7 – nursing/ care homes. LINK to contact commissioner to find out which homes to identify if optimum care is provided.</p> | ML |
| 5 | Long Term Conditions Event | |
| | ML distributed the draft report prepared by Diana Robbins. Members thanked Diana for an excellent report and congratulated everyone involved in planning and organising the event. CD agreed to send additional notes from the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Workshop that she attended on the day. | ML |
| 5 | AOB | |
| | Volunteer Event: Members considered organising an event to thank volunteers. | ML |

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| | ML to send potential dates to members. | |
| | The meeting ended at 8.30pm Next meeting: TBA | |