

LINKed In

AGM briefing

The latest news from York Local Involvement Network

Meet the York LINK Steering Group!

Following our first AGM, held on 26th March 2009, we are pleased to introduce the members of the York LINK Steering Group.

Community Representatives

Kathleen Briers: 'I worked as a teacher for deaf and hard of hearing children. I was a PPI Forum member of the Scarborough and Wolds PCT and have been a volunteer with the Samaritans. I was a member of the LINK Interim Steering Group'.

Jane Perger: 'I am a voluntary worker for the Community Association for Recreation and Sport and previously volunteered at York Crown Court. I am also the Community Watch Deputy Coordinator for the Clifton area and secretary for C.A.R.S Clifton Netball Team, York and District Netball Team and Clifton Cougars under 12's football team'.

Kevin Chapman: 'I worked in industry for years then as a porter in York Hospital. I cared for my parents until they died. I am now a Trustee on York Wheels, York Older Peoples Assembly and Age Concern. I am also involved in Diabetes UK, Nunnery Residents Association, York Baptist Church and the drop-in centre at St Clements Church'.

Jean Shepherd: 'I worked in industry all my life until I retired early with ill-health. I was a founder member of the Kingsway West Residents Association then Chair of the Organisation. I moved to Foxwood and am now Chair of Foxwood Residents Association'.



Representatives of the York LINK Steering Group and Experts Panel

Carolyn Murphy: 'I worked as a teacher, then for the World Health Organisation (WHO) in several posts. My last position was Director of Administration and Finance. Since I retired I have been a volunteer with the Samaritans Poppleton Church of England parish office and WRVS. I was also a member of York Hospital PPI Forum'.

Robin McIlroy: 'I worked for a Mental Health Charity and was a Mental Health Advocate. I was vice-chair of the North Yorkshire and York PCT PPI Forum and remain a member of the Provider Clinical Governance Committee. I also advise York University's Social work and Policy department on social work degrees'.

Lesley Pratt: 'I previously worked in a bank before moving to York. I was a member of York Hospital and North Yorkshire and York PPI Forum. I have experience of dealing with several types of health issues and retain the enthusiasm and drive to ensure that health and social services are made aware of the needs of the community'.

Voluntary Sector Representatives

York Carers Forum - Katie Smith: 'I worked as a Nurse in York in general and mental health services. I volunteered with York Aids Action as a home visitor and Trustee. I undertook teacher training at York College and taught Care Assistants in Care Homes. I was a Trustee for the Carers centre before becoming Secretary for York Carers Forum. I am currently a Carer for my mother, my daughter and two grandchildren'.

York Racial Equality Network - Gurdeep Chadha: 'I am a Scientist and worked in Biochemistry at York University then in the cardiology department at York Hospital. I am a Magistrate on the York bench, a Governor and faith advisor at York St John's University as well as being a Carer for my husband'.

More voluntary sector representatives will be appointed as the work of the LINK progresses.

LINK members have also been appointed as LINK Ward Representatives, LINK Experts and Members of the LINK Readers panel. We still need to recruit more Ward representatives and Experts

See page 2 for the results of the York LINK workplan vote.

York LINK Workplan 2009-2010

At the AGM LINK members were asked to vote for the four most important issues. Provision was also made for members who were unable to attend the event to vote prior to the meeting. Here are the issues which will form the workplan, in order of voting priority. There are five issues in total as numbers four and five received equal numbers of votes.



Workplan voting results!

1 Dignity and respect in health and social care

This issue relates to the national Dignity in Care Campaign for older people but York LINK believe this should apply to all adults who receive health and social care services.

2 The future of Mental Health Services in York and North Yorkshire

NHS North Yorkshire and York are now responsible for commissioning Mental Health Services, so will no longer be able to provide services. They will be consulting with stakeholders and staff, considering the number and type of services that are needed, and looking at the quality of the present services.

3 Planning and buying your own care services

The 'personalisation' agenda gives people Individual Budgets which can be used to buy services from the City of York Council Adult Social Services or from voluntary agencies. Everyone should be offered the option of having an Individual Budget to buy their own care, following an assessment to identify the support they need, although they may still choose to use Social Services Care Managers to organise their care.

4 Implementation of an End of Life Care Strategy

The Department of Health's End of Life Care Strategy was published in July 2008. It stresses the need for PCTs to work with Local Authorities, Hospitals, Hospices, Carers etc to agree and implement ways to improve standards of care for people as they approach the end of their life.

5 Provision of hospital facilities for people with long term conditions such as Neurological conditions

Personalised care plans for people with long term conditions will be implemented in 2010. Guidance has been issued to help NHS and Social Services staff to ensure that people who have long term conditions are more involved in decisions about their illness and treatment, including hospital treatment.



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