

Report from Bradford LINK to the meeting of the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board to be held on Tuesday 6th December 2011.

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Subject:

Information about Bradford LINK, HealthWatch pathfinder and the development of HealthWatch

Summary statement:

This report presents information about Bradford LINK, HealthWatch pathfinder and the development of HealthWatch

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents information about Bradford LINK, HealthWatch pathfinder and the development of HealthWatch

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2007 Bradford Council contracted with Keighley & Ilkley Voluntary Services to deliver the Bradford LINK project for 3 years, with the option to renew for a further 2 years.
- 2.2. Bradford LINK's role is to provide opportunities for people to have voice and influence over the health and social care services that they use, or may use in the future. Specifically it:
 - 2.2.1 Brings people together who share the same concerns
 - 2.2.2 Brings groups of people together with commissioners so that their experiences and voices influence plans
 - 2.2.3 Brings groups of people together with service providers so that their experiences and voices influence how services are run
 - 2.2.4 Steps in when there is a problem to make sure that people using services and those running or planning them work together to resolve the problems
 - 2.2.5 Works with people so they have the right knowledge and skills to be heard and to influence
- 2.3 Bradford LINK has a number of powers to help it carry out its functions:
 - 2.3.1 Comment on the Quality Accounts that health providers publish every year as part of their annual reports. This enables the public to comment on health providers quality improvement agendas.
 - 2.3.2 Conduct Enter and View visits to publically funded health services to make sure they are doing a good job
 - 2.3.3 Question providers of health and social services in the district about concerns that have been raised by the public. Providers must respond to LINK within 20 working days.
- 2.3 In October this year, Bradford was one of 75 districts in England to be awarded HealthWatch Pathfinder status. Pathfinders are charged with testing out different methods of engagement and involvement and to produce evidence to help inform the development of successful models for Healthwatch
- 2.4 In Bradford, the HealthWatch Pathfinder is a partnership between Bradford Council, Bradford LINK, North Yorkshire LINK and NHS Airedale, Bradford and Leeds. It is focusing on developing effective public voice within the emerging Clinical Commissioning Group arrangements. Specifically:

‘Strengthening the patient and public voice by building better partnerships between the GPs, health and social care commissioners, providers and advocacy services. This pathfinder will focus on effective ways of engaging and involving people in service planning and development, and understanding choice.’

- 2.5 Commissioning Bradford Healthwatch for October 2012 will be a separate process from the pathfinder process. It is intended that this should commence in December 2011.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 None

4. OPTIONS

Not applicable

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

Not applicable

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The existing LINK contract ends on 31st March 2012 and the new HealthWatch contract is due to begin on 1st October 2012. The gap in these contracts creates a risk of losing the strength of public voice that has been developed over the last 3 years with regard to influencing effective health and social care provision. Further clarification will be sought from the Department of Health.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 7.1 There are no legal issues arising

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

No other implications

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

No implications. Bradford LINK works across the district, particularly targeting the most vulnerable groups

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Not applicable

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Not applicable

8.6 TRADE UNION

Not applicable

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

No implications. Bradford LiNk works across the district, particularly targeting the most vulnerable groups

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That members of the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board note this report

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix i) Bradford LiNk 2010/11 Annual report

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None