

Present: Sam Omar (SO), Brenda Smith (BS), Claire Wildman (CW, Chair), Jonathan Griffith (JG), Ann Louise Jones (ALJ, JG's Personal Assistant), Roman Babij (RB), Eddie Cunningham (EC), Emma Rodriguez Dos Santos (ERDS).

1. Welcome and introductions, apologies.

Apologies from Margaret Leys (ML), Bernie Lightfoot (BL), Joan Young (JY).

Those that wanted to watch a DVD on Homelessness issues that had been supplied to the Board by Manchester LINK came early and made the following observations:

- The appearance of the homeless people featured in the video was a concern e.g. slightly dirty and poor teeth health – this could make people form negative assumptions about those people. Showering and clothes washing facilities are clearly needed as well as dentists.
- Real life is that there's competition for homeless accommodation, but people need more than just a roof over their heads
- In one of the local areas there was a homeless person who used to frequent a charity shop, until the manager ejected that person!
- Showed that it could happen to anyone that just had a run of bad luck e.g. relationship breakdown, loss of job.
- The rigidity of the benefit system doesn't help, people thought you had to have a home to receive benefits
- All ages and any background can become homeless.
- There's been a reduction in fall-back services e.g. there used to be rehabilitation wards at hospitals, which were similar to a hostel setting. But there is no public money put into such things these days.

2. Current issues – Task Groups

Attitudes of staff – none of the regular members of the task group were present, so Emma explained that they planned to continue with the practice visits for the future months. Enter & View training needed to be arranged for Sam and Eddie, which would also be opened up to the wider membership. Information on the Quality Outcomes Framework data, the performance of all GP practices that gets paid accordingly, to be provided to all members.

Next task group priority areas

- **Transport** - the first meeting of this was to due to take place after the Board, to discuss what the various transport issues were and set meeting dates. This information would then be circulated to the wider membership.
- **Dignity in Care** – this had its first meeting on 31st August. Helen was due to contact the unique post of a Dignity Coordinator at Halton Borough Council to see how they had gone about setting up their Dignity network. Ann Hyson was a particularly interested

member from St. Helens & Knowsley Hospital Trust and stated that it was possible to order elements of information on dignity.

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

Matters Arising:

The PCT's involvement sub-committee, Roman stated he was no longer attending this on behalf of LINK as this was EC and SO now. The notes from the 8th June session regarding the 4 Boroughs mental health forums and LINKs meeting regarding communication with commissioners of services have been finalised and sent to Colin Vose to ensure they are put to the local Partnership Boards.

Sam commented that he had attended a BME conference in Liverpool, was still awaiting contact from Paul Harris at One North West.

A toe nail-cutting service was now being publicised alongside the podiatry sessions, this had been discussed at a previous LINK drop-in, as the PCT wanted to see whether people would be prepared to pay for this to reduce the numbers sitting on podiatry waiting lists. It would be at Lowe House clinic from September 2010, £6 at clinic, £9 for a home visit (this was thought to be reasonable as it was thought to be £10-20 in the private sector). However it was noted that feet checking therefore would only take place for people that still attended the podiatrist.

The future of LINK – e.g. possibly converting to HealthWatch, the point was made that there was no mention really of social care in this, Emma informed the Board that however the Scrutiny committee wanted LINK to remain involved and that she would be presenting to the Scrutiny commission later in the week.

Roman stated he had attended a 5BP event at St. Helens on the white paper and would pass the LINK support team the paperwork.

4. Feedback from Reps

Roman stated he was still awaiting the report from the Wirral good practice visit that a couple of people from the PCT and a GP had attended, so that he could see what they were proposing. The Single Point of Access (SPA) that had begun as a new system for handling mental health referrals from GPs to manage more serious mental healthcare treatment, had recently become flooded with referrals from a few GPs. The PCT was due to look at whether they could put in place some more experienced screeners into the SPA team, to ensure GPs were actually treating people they could manage in primary care.

IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapy) – being used as one element of treating depression, the recruitment had been held up, but was

now going through a third sector body (as PCT recruitment had been suspended). So therapists would soon be in post and treating people. Roman has also attended the Wellbeing Project launch, but didn't find any detail about what the project was doing.
Action: ERDS to pass to RB documents about their evaluation of their work.

5. Requests for LINK representation

Emma advised members of the invite to the CVS AGM, Roman suggested he could attend if he was not required to care for his mother.

Emma also made members aware of the diabetes service planning sessions that she had been told about a short notice, the St. Helens one was due to take place the following evening.

Emma detailed the 2 white paper consultation events that the team had arranged and asked for Board members to be in attendance, to assist with drawing comments out of the general public there. Sam said he would attend the Earlestown event, Roman agreed to attend the Widnes and St. Helens events.

6. Representation on Partnerships

Brenda fed back on the two partnership boards/groups she had attended recently the first was the Early Detection for Major Illness – taking over from Harry – which was very interesting.

The second was the dementia steering group regarding Assessment Care & treatment services, where she had mentioned whether the Liverpool Care Pathways was being followed locally, it was confirmed it was where appropriate.

7. Any Other Business

Emma was saddened to report the news that Dennis O'Reilly an active member of the Halton LINK board had recently passed away and that he would be missed. He had trained some of the members in the PCT's ways of making decisions about business cases at the end of March.

Free parking for Cancer patients – Claire had received a letter from Dave Watts MP who said he was looking into it further. David Cameron had refused to insist the Government should make a rule on, that it was up to local hospitals to decide what parking fees to charge. Claire had written to the hospital who had replied to say thank you for bringing it to their attention. [Since the meeting Claire has been sent information that if cancer patients pay in advance for 20 tickets from Rowan House building at Whiston hospital site, then a parking session only costs £0.75. Claire felt this should be publicised more, particularly on cancer wards]

CQC and LINKs questionnaire – Emma provided copies of her response to the survey. It was felt to accurately reflect the disappointing level of involvement CQC had said they desired from LINKs but had not yet taken proper steps to achieve.

Date and time of next meeting:

10.30am on 11th October 2010 at CVS offices, Jonathan to chair.