

Derby LINK Annual Report 2012-13

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Before their abolition on 31 March 2013, Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) were required to publish their annual report of activities. The attached report is Derby LINKs final Annual Report 2012/13.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and note the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 LINKs were required to present their annual report of activities to their respective health overview and scrutiny committees.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.2 Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) were established in 2008 to give local people a voice on the quality of local health and social care provision. People were asked about their views and ideas to help improve local services and these were presented to service providers. Links were also given powers of enter and view which enabled them to assess quality of health and social care provision within their patch. LINKs were required to publish annual report of activities and share these with their local health overview and scrutiny committees. The attached report provides details of activities carried by Derby LINKs during 2012-13.
- 1.3 LINKs have now been replaced by Healthwatch organisations which are “consumer champion” organisations and became operational from 1 April 2013. They have some similar activities as links in gathering the views of the stakeholders, particularly the public and customers about local services and presenting these to providers and commissioners. However Healthwatch organisations are established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and are independent bodies with local management boards. They employ their own staff and volunteers and thus become influential voice for the public. Healthwatch also have a statutory seat on the Health and Well-being Board to ensure the views and experiences of patients, carers and other service users are taken

into account when developing local strategies.

- 1.4 Healthwatch are also expected to provide information to people about their choices and what to do when things go wrong including signposting people to relevant service providers.
- 1.5 Healthwatch Derby is the independent consumer champion which undertakes the statutory functions for the city. It is based at the Council House and this helps it to maximise networking opportunities and of sharing goods and services.
- 1.6 It is important to establish a close working relationship for Healthwatch Derby and the Adults and Public Health Board to maximise overview and scrutiny opportunities of health and social care organisations in the city and thus improve services for the local community.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	N/A
Other(s)	Mahroof Hussain – Scrutiny and Civic Services Manager

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Background papers:	Council Cabinet Report 13 March 2013 – Healthwatch Derby
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – LINK Annual Report 2012/13

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising directly from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 gives health scrutiny committees powers to review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services.
- 2.2 Section 227 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires LINKs to publish an annual report of their activities and submit a copy to the local overview and scrutiny committee.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Our aim is to work together so that Derby and it's people will enjoy a thriving sustainable economy, good health and well-being and an active cultural life.