



Cumbria LINK Governing Body
Minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2010
Westmorland County Agricultural Society

Present

Alan Alexander
Janet Pitman
Liz Clegg
Neil Hughes
Jim Bradley
Jane Thompson

In Attendance

Jane Macfarlane
Louise Dixon
Georgina Ternent – Cumbria County Council

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed

3. Matters Arising

Resignation: Chris Abbot has resigned from the Governing Body due to his time commitments with the Mountain Rescue increasing. Although Chris was not present at the meet members expressed their thanks for his contributions to the work of Cumbria LINK. The host has written a letter of thanks to Chris.

4. Conflict of Interests

Jim noted his interest with the Cumbria Mental Health Group
Alan and Neil noted their interests with NALM

5. Future Contract

Following on from Jane's request at the previous meeting, Georgina Ternent came to talk to the group from Cumbria County Council's point of view. They are still unsure what will happen in the transitional year leading to HealthWatch. They have had two Regional meetings and have made a formal request to the Department of Health to allow local authorities flexibility to extend their current contract but the outcome of this will be unknown until later on in the year. The regional Local Authorities have a follow up meeting scheduled with Mr Sadler and Mr Streets from the DoH in September. Georgina said the request to the governing body to use the under spend to extend the current contract for 3 months still stood. A formal statement of agreement from the governing body was agreed.

Action: Jane M to make a formal request to Richard Parry to see Cumbria County Councils response to the White Paper.

6. White Paper

There was a discussion on the White Paper, it was decided it was important to look at what we would actually need in the transitional year and that the words networking and flexibility were going to be key.

Action: Jane M to invite John Ashton, Bill Wearing and Paul Glazebrook to the event discussing the White Paper on 21st September.

Liz C to draft a response to the White Paper questions to be discussed and finalized at the September meeting.

Neil H to draft a response to the Health Select Committee.

7. Member Event

It was decided to leave the member event for the moment due to other events being held.

8. Delegation

Neil asked the governing body to consider delegating power to people doing work for the governing body so they have the right to use their powers for completing work. Neil said that as the governing body had too much work on he would rather delegate than see the quality of work suffer. Concerns over people acting inappropriately if powers if powers delegated were expressed. Extreme caution over what is delegated and to who is essential. Agreed some delegation in principle, i.e. work and task groups but not power.

9. Work Plan/Action List

WP 4 West Cumberland Hospital – Yewdale Ward

Two public meetings have now been held (minutes circulated) but the Partnership Trust were not fully in a position to answer questions about the future of Yewdale although Michael Smillie did attend the meeting at Workington. The Acute Hospital Trust was not able to send a representative to the meetings. The letter from Overview and Scrutiny has resulted in the three Chief Executives meeting to discuss options for the ward and that a solution is being explored. Liz will update from the Overview and Scrutiny's point of view at the next meeting. Jim is expecting some news on a decision in the next few weeks, Michael Smillie is attending the Mental Health sub group meeting which follows this meeting and it is hoped he will have more information.

WP 24 Breast Screening

During a meeting on the 29th July John Berry, Consultant Radiologist Alan was informed that the main problem has been that two radiographers were due to retire and the Trust had not been able to recruit to the positions. The trust managed to keep the two radiographers on part time but the frequency of needle biopsies has been much lower than it should have been, changes in current practice had not been implemented by the Trust. . Following the meeting a letter was written to Helen Kelly asking for answers to 6 questions but a response has not yet been received. If no response is received in a satisfactory time scale it was suggested a press release about the reasons should be issued.

Jane M to contact Helen Kelly and ask her to respond as a matter of urgency.

WP 25 Consultation Keswick Care Home

A drop in event has been organised on the 16th September at the Moot Hall in Keswick from 1pm – 4pm. Staff and volunteers from LINK will be there to talk to people to gather their views, there will also be street surveys taking place. Third Sector organisations from the area have also been invited to attend and showcase the services they provide. Press releases advertising the event have been sent out. It was decided that it was important to gather the views of people who have had loved ones moved from the home and find out if they are now in suitable care establishments.

Action: Host to ask Peter Knock to attend event.

WP 9 UHMB

Action: Jane M to chase Helen Jarram for a response.

WP 14 Carlisle Medical Group

Governing body happy for Gill J to continue to attend Carlisle Locality Stakeholder Group.

10. LINK Representative Reports

None submitted.

11. Draft Terms of Reference Mental Health Sub Group

There was a brief discussion with no major concerns being raised.

Action: Sub group to discuss and make any changes at their meeting. Governing Body to approve final version at next meeting.

12. Equality and Diversity

An issue regarding the diversity policy of governors and non-executive directors in the PCT and other trusts was sent by Aftab Khan.

Action: Jane M to write to the Trusts for the information requested and respond to Aftab.

13. OSC

Not discussed

14. CCC Local Transport Plan Consultation

Action: Liz C to draft a response and circulate for approval.

15. Meeting Local MP's

Action: Liz C to progress.

16. NALM Membership

It was agreed to join.

Action: Host to complete the application form and arrange for payment.

17. Any Other Business

PCAS

The next PCAS meeting has now been cancelled and rescheduled for 15th September. Peter Weaving spoke to Kay M and told her that the PCT are reconsidering their processes in the light of our comments on the service.

NHS Cumbria Dental Webpage

The website has now been changed in response to our comments.

Permanent Chair for Governing Body

Janet proposed that in light of all the changes ahead it would be better if the governing body had a permanent chair. This was agreed and Alan was elected.

18. Date and Time Next Meeting

Tuesday 27th September 2010 – 10.30am
Maryport CVS Office