



Cumbria LINK Governing Body
Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2010
Cumbria CVS Office, Penrith

Present

Alan Alexander
Liz Clegg
Neil Hughes
Jim Bradley
Jane Thompson

In Attendance

Jane Macfarlane
Louise Dixon
Sue Graham – NHS Cumbria
Christine Harrison – NHS Cumbria
Chris O' Neil – NHS Blackpool
Asiya Jelani – North West Ambulance Service

1. Apologies

Janet Pitman. As a result of Janet's recent fall and fracture she will be unable to attend meetings and events for the time being and will be taking a leave of absence.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed

3. Matters Arising

White Paper: The deadline for responding to Liberating the NHS – Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health is the 11th October 2010.

Action: Liz C to formulate a response and email round the governing body members for approval.

Action: Host to send Liz C responses on the consultation from the joint LINK and Action for Health meeting held on 21st September.

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

UHMB: Still no response received from Helen Jarram to the report produced by Janet P following her hospital visit.

Action: Jane M to write to Helen Jarram stating the legal requirement for them to respond to Cumbria LINK.

CCC Local Transport Plan Consultation

Members expressed concerns about poor weekend services on public transport and that because of changes to Patient Transport eligibility criteria more people will need to use public transport to attend hospital appointments.

Action: Host to send a list of concerns / issues as a response.

4. Patient Transport Service Pilot

The North West Primary Care Trust commissioned the review 2 – 2 ½ years ago on the back of concerns around the commissioning of the patient transport service. Currently there are a number of different operating services, with 78 different contracts between Acute hospitals and the North West Ambulance service. Blackpool is the lead for all emergency patient transport services in the North West and is also acting as the lead for the review. The patient transport service includes all non-emergency journeys such as outpatient appointments, discharges and hospital transfers.

The first stage of the review was to see what services were already out there for patients. The second stage was to come up with a core of what the patient transport service should look like. The idea is to have one contract across the North West in the same way Blackpool currently manage one emergency transport contract. The plan is to rationalise the contract with NWS first before starting on the contracts with other providers. NWS have 478 volunteer drivers across the North West and complete 2.2 million journeys a year through the PTS service

The contract will be based on the Department of Health contract with some alterations. As part of the North West wide contract they are looking at rurality issues, on average a journey to the nearest hospital in Cumbria is 30 miles whereas in Manchester it is 10 miles.

The eligibility criteria set in 2007 is being rolled out across the North West between now and March 2011. The early adopters start on 4th October 2010, there are currently 5 of which North Cumbria is one. "We are engaging with Cumbria's overview and scrutiny committee". It is very clear in new contract that getting a hospital appointment is a medical need and not a social need. There will be a set of questions to establish someone's eligibility; these questions are based around a person's frailty for instance asking how many steps can you manage rather than asking what illness/condition a person has. We need to open a discussion with the Local Authority around the social need for patient transport service for instance people who don't meet the eligibility criteria but who can't drive and don't live near any public transport links, we understand this is a major issue in Cumbria. They want to be in a position to offer alternatives if people are not eligible for patient transport service. People who are currently covered may not be in the future although the agreement will continue for the current period of treatment they are having. Using did not attend records is a possibility for identifying possible public transport black spots. Under the new contract the patient transport service will operate to all NHS sites.

Action: Chris O'Neil (NHS Blackpool) to send further some information to Jane. Host to put patient information in newsletter and link to PCT website

5. Conflict of Interests

None recorded.

6. Work Plan/Action List

WP 1 Listening to Communities

The pilot for the project starts on 1st October 2010. Forms have been sent to all the organisations involved. The database should be live soon. A launch event for the project has been suggested for 21st January 2011; Jane M asked the governing body if they would be willing to help fund this launch.

Action: Jane M to send a budget report and quotation for the cost to the governing body.

WP 2 Community Health Champions

A further nine volunteers passed their level 2 training at the recent training sessions in Barrow. There are now 16 people ready to start the level 3 training in Carlisle. The host is currently meeting with the level 2 volunteers on a one to one basis to discuss setting up placements. It was proposed to hold a launch event but details are yet to be confirmed.

WP 3 Primary Care Assessment Service

A report was circulated from Gill J who attended the PCAS meeting held on 15th September 2010.

Action: Host to ask Gill J to clarify a point in the report on 'who will pay the bills'.

WP 4 West Cumberland Hospital

Report from the stakeholders group meeting on 23rd September circulated by Alan A.

Action: Host to circulate old reports on Health Campus in West Cumbria.

WP 7 NHS Dentistry

A brief list of the initial finding of the survey was circulated. Governing Body members to complete some more mystery shopper's exercises and send to host. Host to complete report once all responses received.

Action: Host to complete report and check correct details are on the LINK website.

WP 12 Adult Social Care Monitoring Visits

The care home visits are due to begin shortly. A further visiting training event is taking place on 29th September and has been organised jointly with NHS Cumbria.

WP 17 Overview and Scrutiny

The fairer access to equipment survey is due to end on the 1st October.

Action: Host to complete a report on the results.

WP 24 Breast Screening

Response from Helen Kelly circulated. Alan A has contacted Helen to express disappointment in her response to questions two; she has agreed to forward an additional response.

Action: Host to address question three direct to the Quality Assurance team.

Look into what is happening at present and clarify the current process in use.

7. LINK Representative Reports

Neil H circulated a report from the VSNW event on the NHS White Paper held in Manchester on 7th September.

Liz C circulated reports on the Cumbria PCT Board meeting held on 8th September and on the Extraordinary Cumbria PCT Board meeting held on 22nd September.

8. Governing Body Elections

There have been 14 responses received from the LINK membership and 13 agreed with the proposal not to hold elections and instead co-opt new members to the governing body. It was agreed that perspective new members should be interviewed with Alan A, Neil H and Jane T forming the interview panel. The posts will be advertised through the third sector network and the LINK membership.

Action: Host to formulate an advert and send to Alan A for approval.

9. Report from Keswick Drop in Session

The completed report was circulated.

Action: Host to issue a press release about the report.

10. Report from Joint LINK and Action for Health Meeting

The joint meeting was held on 22nd September and the views of those who attended were recorded on a 'talking wall'. These comments will be included in a CVS response to the consultation.

Action: Host to send report once finalised.

11. PEC Representative

It was agreed that Liz C would become the representative. It was suggested that it would be good to have a LINK representative on the third sector executive. Paul was fulfilling that role but is currently not an active member of the Governing Body.

Action: Jane M to check process and report back.

12. Mental Health Sub Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th August were circulated. Jim B would like to organise a meeting with key organisations interested in Mental Health as a chance to discuss how the sub group could work.

Action: Jane M and Jim B to progress the meeting.

13. Information Governance

An email request for help from the LINK by Ailsa Benson was circulated. It was decided to first get some clarification around information governance and then if appropriate invite Ailsa to the next meeting to discuss her concerns.

Action: Host to formulate request for information.

14. Operational Methods

A handout was circulated by Alan A, he expressed concern that LINK were not always being informed of issues that were appearing in the press. It was decided it was important for LINK to get on the circulation lists for all of the trust's press releases. It was decided to re-visit and re-inforce LINK's Communication strategy and have as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Action: Host to circulate Communication Strategy. Host to set up meetings with initially the Cumbria Partnership Trust's Chair and Operations Manager to establish relationships. Jim will make initial contact with CPT.

15. NWAS

Janet wanted to clarify that she attends Board Meetings as a Representative of the Critical Friends Network and not as a LINK Representative.

16. PCT Provider Arm Split

Discussed earlier. Cumbria PCT have agreed that Cumbria Partnership Trust will take over responsibilities for the provider element of the PCT.

Action Host to send slides from Joint LINK and Action for Health meeting that explain the process and decisions made

17. Invitation University Hospitals of North Cumbria

Alan A agreed to attend the judging on 14th October. It was decided to ask Jane T or Janet P to attend the awards evening on 11th November.

18. Any Other Business

Jim B attended the South Lakes Health Action group meeting with Tim Farron MP, around 50 people attended with Hugh Reve discussing WGH, Jim reported that it was much appreciated having someone willing to engage in a much more open communication.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 8th November 2010 – 10.30am – 2.30pm
Moot Hall, Keswick.