



**Minutes of the Cumbria LINK Governing Body
Held on Thursday 12th May 2011
Moot Hall, Keswick**

Present

Alan Alexander
Neil Hughes
Liz Clegg
John McCarthy
Jane Thompson
Ailsa Benson
Janet Pitman

In Attendance

Jane Macfarlane
Neil Goodwin Project Facilitator External Stakeholder Group Merger and
Acquisition NCUH

1. Apologies

Jim Bradley

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Taken with matters arising

3. Matters Arising

Item 6. Jim is attending the meeting to discuss First Steps service on 20th
May

WP2

Jane Thompson will attend the Community Health Champion
presentations and represent Cumbria LINK giving out the awards

WP9

Jane has been in touch with Lancashire LINK who is willing to jointly
present to Board and Governors. The Trust has been informed and we
are waiting for meeting dates.

Item 7

To insert the word 'strategy after Community

Web Site Review

Jane and Alan are attending a meeting at North Cumbria Acute Trust for guidance and advice on our web site next week. Jane informed members that money has been allocated to this year's budget that will support a rebuild and design.

WP4

Correction as follows: Palliative care **will remain in the** Copeland Unit Ailsa reported that she is attending a meeting with Mike Walker on behalf of the PVG on this issue and will feedback to LINK. Discussion took place about how LINK and PVG could work together on this and other issues to avoid duplication of work. Alan is attending the next PVG meeting and will discuss way of collaborative working then.

There is an information request still outstanding on Palliative Care

Action: Jane to follow up

WP10 NWAS

There has been a positive response from the Ambulance Trust on the issues raised about the new Fiat ambulances.

WP22 Annual Report

The second draft of the Annual report was circulated by email prior to the meeting and copies tabled at the meeting.

Action: All to send comments/correction to the host in the next 2 weeks

WP31 Locality Boards

Alan attended the Copeland Locality Board meeting to inform and update on LINK and HealthWatch. The Board indicated they were willing to communicate via a stakeholder group. Jane also reported that a proposal to establish Stakeholder groups in each area has gone to the Senate.

Action: Host to write to the Lead GP to confirm and investigate establishing a Stakeholder Group in Copeland

Item 9 Governing Body Co-opted Members

The final applicant for the Governing Body is now available for interview

Action: Jane to arrange and interview, Alan and Jane T to make up the panel as before

Item 13 HealthWatch Pathfinder Proposal

The Pathfinder Proposal has been finalised and sent to the DoH. Next steps are to hold a follow on meeting to plan the deliver. The date was agreed 30th June 2011 (subsequently cancelled because of delays expected as a result of the current pause in the process)

Item 14 Any Other business

Outstanding actions for Jane to contact Sarah regarding Lorenzo and Ella regarding ICES

4. Conflicts of Interest

John noted his involvement as Chair of the Prostate Cancer Group, Current application for Patient Association and patient rep on the National Cancer Reform Strategy. John's wife is also an employee of Cumbria Partnership Foundation Trust

5. Equality and Diversity

The issue around provision of translation services seems not to have been resolved; host staff have been made aware of situations where there has been no service available.

Action: Host to investigate.

6. Work Plan

WP1 Listening to Communities

Jane Thompson and Kay recently attended a Cumbria Youth Alliance Residential and have identified one young person who is keen to establish a sub group of around 20 young people to discuss issues of concern.

The Steering Group will be meeting to discuss what has worked well and not so well over the pilot period and recommend some direction for the future. It was felt it important to raise awareness of the mechanism so that views can inform the work plan. Jane and John will both attend the next meeting of the steering group

Action: Jane to report on pilot project.

WP2 Community Health Champions

The Community Health Champions will have a key role in promoting the Listening to Communities mechanism for recording issues. Funding is available for volunteer support up to March 2012 but additional funding is required to train additional volunteers in West Cumbria. Jane will be meeting with the PCT to discuss future funding.

Action: Jane to arrange meeting with PCT to discuss funding

WP4 West Cumberland Hospital

Several members of the Governing Body and Host staff attended the recent public meeting in Whitehaven called in response to concerns over the future of the hospital. There were mixed views about the meeting but it was generally felt that nothing was achieved.

Alan talked about the NCUH reports saying that the second report indicated improvements had been made but there still seems to be issues about rotas. We are still waiting for a response to the questions raised about the clinical strategy which was prepared in response to

recommendations of the first NCUH report. Mike Walker, Clinical Director, has suggested a meeting to discuss.

At this point information is not clear, there are lots of aspirations for the hospital but no mention of what is financially viable. It was felt we were not in a position to know what the outcome will be.

Action: Host to arrange meeting with Mike Walker.

WP9 UHMB

Janet raised concerns about the relationship with some members of Trust staff saying that after attending meetings called by the Trust there is no follow through as stated.

There are also some issues being reported about follow up appointment for breast cancer patients, appointments not being sent out or arriving too late to be able to attend.

Action: Host to draft a letter to the Trust.

WP10 NWAS

Questions were asked at the previous meeting about future commissioning arrangements for PTS, Janet has asked the Trust but they do not know at this time. The PTS application of the eligibility criteria has now rolled out to South Cumbria, the early adopter area in the North did not result in the problems we had anticipated and has had little or no negative effect on DNA rates.

Public Consultation on Foundation Trust Status is now over

WP12 Adult Social Care Visit

Two further visits reports were tabled for approval at the meeting, Heversham House and Clarendon Grange. Visitors have reported that there are some concerns about availability of places. Kay will be attending a meeting of the Independent Care Home Providers and will find out more.

WP24 Breast Screening

Normal services have been resumed with radiologist services being provided by Newcastle.

We are still waiting for the '**satisfactory statement**' issued by the Trust that was part of our original investigations into what went wrong.

Action: Host to remind the Trust.

7. Representative's Report

Reports circulated before the meeting for information were

- Enabling Patient Choice
- Young Carers Event

- Report on Rural Busses
- Cumbria Youth Alliance Residential
- Health Services in Community Planning
- Notes from Jim Bradley on Social Care Issues

Health Service in Community Planning

Alan commented that the paper produced by Liz raised some important points to consider about services provided by GP practices and sets out core services we should all know about. Liz pointed out that GP's can change arrangements without consultation.

Liz tabled at the meeting her report from the Third Sector Network (TSN) meeting and commented that there seems to be a lack of understanding about what LINK does that needs to be addressed.

The TSN want a place on the Health and Wellbeing Board and there was some discussion at the meeting as to whether this place should be a health sector rep or a rep with a wider remit

A meeting of the Action for Health Network is being arranged in June. The focus will be around supporting the PCT to take forward its legacy work a further topic will be around LINK/HealthWatch working with the Network to strengthen voices.

Action: Jane to inform about date for the Action for Health meeting

8. HealthWatch Pathfinders – Next steps

Discussed at item 3 meeting arranged.

9. NCUH Governance Review and CQC Regulation

Cumbria LINK has been asked to get involved in aspects of the Governance review relating to the Care Quality Standards. We have been asked to identify 3 of the 16 standards we would like to work with. Members agreed:

- Consent
- Co-operation with other Partners
- Complaints

Action: Jane to inform Ramona and discuss

10. Governance and Devolution

Neil asked for guidance on who is authorised to write letters on behalf of LINK and clarification on when to use the LINK Logo.

Action: Jane to prepare protocol on the above

Governance review will form a major part of the work required to prepare for HealthWatch, it was suggested this will be discussed at the next planning meeting for HealthWatch. It was stated that there would be a full

report at the next ordinary LGB meeting, which would include considering earmarking devolved powers to individual LGB members, also whether GB elections would be held in 2011.

Our current policy on decision making may already indicate where and under what circumstances powers can be devolved.

Action: Review of the Decision Making Policy at the next meeting

Alan will be attending the next PVG meeting to discuss working arrangements it was agreed that the power to make decisions on collaborative work be devolved to him for that purpose.

11. Correspondence

Our recent requests for information regarding Clinical Strategy have been referred to the medical Director for a response, he in turn has suggested a meeting to discuss.

Action: Jane to Arrange

12. NHS Quarterly Update

Circulated prior to the meeting for information

13. Any Other Business

NHS Listening Exercise

There is an opportunity to comment on the NHS reforms via the questionnaire circulated by email. It was agreed that we all make individual comments and send to the host where they will be collated into a single response.

Services for Children with hearing impairments

Concerns have been raised about cuts to the above services from our networks. A request has been made for information to Cumbria County Council's Children's Services.

Action: Jane to keep informed on outcomes

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday June 20th 10:30 – 2:30 Keswick Venue to be confirmed.

Trust Merger and Acquisition

Neil Goodwin, Project Facilitator External Stakeholder Group Merger and Acquisition NCUH, attended the meeting to discuss the above and the role of the External Stakeholder Group. Cumbria LINK was asked to take part in the work of the group and Alan is our representative who attended the first meeting last week to agree Terms of Reference. Neil's role is to facilitate a successful outcome to the process.

Due to the financial situation North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust declared it was not able to achieve Foundation Status and as a result of this is required needs to seek to merge or be acquired by another trust.

Neil was clear that this process does not require any public consultation because there will be no changes to services involved in the process. However, the acquiring Trust will need to address the financial situation once it is in place and at this point if this indicates changes to service provision then the normal process of public consultation will be required. It would be naive to expect there would be no changes in view of the deficit. Future plans on service provision will not surface during the acquisition process; however, the external Stakeholder Group may be able to question interested Trusts on future plans.

Mergers and Acquisitions are relatively new to the NHS and are more familiar in the private sector, where companies join together or acquire others to increase strength and stability.

The process involves engaging with external stakeholders to influence what is happening around the process. Liz pointed out the issue of rurality and pointed to the very different problems faced in rural areas.

It is key to identify an acquiring Trust with the ability to manage and that would help the Trust move up a gear and offer more or different opportunities.

The External Stakeholder Group will oversee the process, be able to express their views, exert influence and ensure transparency of the process.