



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report Title: **Update report on the replacement of Patient Public Involvement Forums with Local Involvement Networks**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **[add reference]**

Report of: **Cllr Gideon Bull**

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **[Key / Non-Key Decision]**

1. Purpose (That is, the decision required)

1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.

Report Authorised by: **Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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3. Chief Financial Officer Comments

3.1 The resources identified to fund Haringey's contract with the host organisation in 2008/09 are set out in paragraph 12. Funding for the LINK has been provided as part of the area based grant and currently Haringey has only committed funding for 2008/09 hence the initial contract will only run until the end of March 2009.

3.2 It is clearly important that decisions on level of funding available beyond that date are made as soon as possible to ensure the new structure can be properly embedded particularly as it is expected that the LINK will have an important input into the

commissioning of health and social care services and to audit and comment on the success of services currently in place which should positively contribute to our LAA outcomes.

4. Head of Legal Services Comments

4.1 The legal implications, including the effect of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, are set out in the body of the report.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no specific financial implications for the Council; however it should be noted that the funding for Local Involvement Networks is not ring-fenced but within the Local Area Agreements funding pool and therefore potentially competing with other Council priorities.

6.2 Also, the contract for the host organisation is being tendered for three years plus one and due to the budgetary process only year one funding is able to be confirmed.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 Any legal implications are laid out in the report.

8. Background

8.1 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill Patient Public Involvement Forums (PPIs) are to be abolished as of 1st April 2008 and replaced with Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). However, in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, provisions were made for an interim arrangement.

8.2 The role of LINKs differs to that of PPIs in that they represent both Health and Social Care rather than just Health and are attached to an area rather than an individual Trust.

9. The LINK

9.1 The role of the LINK is to:

- Promote and support the involvement of people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of local health and social care services
- Obtain the views of people about their need for, and experiences of, local health and social care services
- Enabling people to monitor and review the commissioning and provision of care services
- Raising the concerns of local people with those responsible for commissioning, providing, managing and scrutinising services.

9.2 The powers of the LINK include:

- To enter specified types of premises and view the services provided.
- To request information, make reports and recommendations and receive a response within a specified timescale.

- To refer matters to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and receive a response.
- The LINK will operate independently of the local authority, within its own governance structure and decision-making processes.

9.3 The Membership of a LINK will include a wide variety of groups and networks, for example, service user support groups, tenant groups, older people's forum, minority ethnic groups, faith groups etc.

10. The Host

10.1 Local Authorities have responsibility for procuring a host organisation whose role will be to support the function of the LINK. This includes, in the initial stages, engaging with existing voluntary and community groups and encouraging involvement of harder to reach groups, developing how the LINK should be structured and setting up governance arrangements.

10.2 Once the LINK is operational the Host will support its ongoing work. This will include activities such as providing training for members, providing the Department of Health with an Annual Report and ensuring the effective governance of the whole structure.

11. LINKs Project Board

11.1 A multi-agency project board was set up in August 2007 in order to procure a host organisation for Haringey. This is being led by the Head of Procurement and the project board consists of officers from across Haringey Council, members of current PPI forums, the voluntary sector and the TPCT.

11.2 Consultation

11.2.1 An initial consultation event took place in November 2007. This was facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny and was attended by a range of community sectors.

11.2.2 A 'Meet the Buyers' day for prospective bidders took place in December 2007. This enabled prospective bidders to gain an understanding of the procurement process and of LINKs themselves.

11.2.3 A further consultation event is scheduled for April 2008. The aim of this event will be to gain views on the governance arrangements for the LINKs.

11.2.4 An explanatory leaflet containing a short questionnaire inviting feedback has been widely distributed via post to 950 Community and Voluntary Organisations and also to the Mental Health Trust and the TPCT.

11.2.5 A web page has been set up on the Haringey Web site, to inform members of the public and ask for any views on the set up and running of the LINK.

11.3 The Procurement Process

11.3.1 Haringey has joined with Enfield, Islington and Waltham Forest for the procuring of a Host organisation. However, each Local Authority will have an individual contract with their chosen Host organisation.

11.3.2 After expressions of interest were received for the tendering of the contract a number of Pre Qualification Questionnaires were received.

11.3.3 From the Pre Qualification Questionnaires, seven bidders were short listed and invited to tender for the contract. The deadline for this is 7th April 2008.

11.3.4 Once the tenders have been received they will be evaluated by a Panel made up of Voluntary and Community Sector representatives. These include MIND in

Haringey, Black and Minority Ethnic Carers Support Service the Ethiopian Community Centre and current PPI members. This panel will evaluate the tenders based on a pre-agreed Evaluation Criteria.

11.4 Interim arrangements

11.4.1 Due to the challenging timescales given by the Department of Health and the legally binding procurement process the LINK in Haringey will not be operational by the 1st April 2008. Haringey, along with the partner boroughs, aims to put short term contracts in place with the organisations currently supporting PPI forums. The Contract for the Host organisation will be in place from July 1st 2008.

12. Funding

12.1 The Department of Health has allocated Haringey a set amount of funding for the next three years for LINKs:

2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
£172000	£171000	£171000

12.2 It is important to note that this funding is *not* ring fenced but part of the Local Area Agreements funding pool and has therefore to compete with a number of council priorities.

12.3 The Performance Management Group has approved the funding of £170,000 to be allocated for year one of LINKs. This is due to be ratified at the next Haringey Strategic Partnership Board. However, the funding is subject to a review at 6 months to assess the impact the funding is having on the agreed priorities. Funding has not been agreed for year two and three at this stage and currently there is no agreement as to how future year's budgets will be allocated .

12.4 Haringey council has advertised the first nine months of the contract for a maximum value of £113k, with additional £33k to fund the interim arrangements and a further £20k to fund any additional requirements identified during the ongoing consultation process.

12.5 Our partner boroughs have advertised for the first 9 months at the amounts as shown below

Islington Council	£137k
Waltham Forest	£133k
Enfield	£130k