

## **Kent Local Involvement Network – Kent LINK**

**July 2008 – Newsletter**

[www.kent.gov.uk/localinvolvementnetwork](http://www.kent.gov.uk/localinvolvementnetwork)

### **Introduction**

This newsletter is written to update all stakeholders on the situation with regard to the establishment of a Local Involvement Network in Kent. The previous newsletter was distributed in May.

### **Appointing an Independent Organisation to Host the Kent LINK**

Kent County Council is happy to announce that the Host Organisation which has been appointed to support the Kent LINK is Kent and Medway Networks (KMN). KMN have previously been a Forum Support Organisation for the former Patient and Public Involvement Forums. They, therefore, have a wealth of knowledge and experience to bring to the role of Host Organisation. KMN have recently also been awarded the Medway LINK Host Organisation contract. They will be taking over the support of the LINK Working Group from Kent County Council in August.

**Kent & Medway Networks (KMN) are delighted to have been awarded the contract for the Host Organisation and look forward to working closely with the LINK Members and Participants in the Kent area. Full contact details for KMN are as follows:**

By Post: Kent & Medway Networks Ltd  
Unit 24  
Folkestone Enterprise Centre  
Shearway Road  
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CT19 4RH

Telephone: 01303 297050  
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E-mail: [info@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:info@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

The KMN office is open from 8.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday each week. A voicemail system is available for use should the telephone line be engaged on another call or for messages out of office hours.

### **New items on the Kent LINK website**

The website (see link above) now includes the terms of reference for the LINK transitional working group and a copy of issue 8 of Opinion, the magazine of the Kent resident's panel. This issue details the resident's panel survey undertaken about the introduction of LINK.

### **NCI Website**

As noted in previous newsletters, The Department of Health has asked the NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI) to be the lead organisation for supplying advice and guidance about LINKs. As the guidance is added to on a frequent basis, this newsletter again reproduces the link to the website.

There are three strands of work taking place:

- practical advice, guidance and support;
- voluntary and community sector fieldwork; and
- LINKs Exchange (IT portal)

There is a range of guidance materials available via the NCI website [www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk). This includes a recently added updated *LINKs Explained* leaflet. Additionally, the NCI now produce the LINKs Bulletins on behalf of the Department of Health, and these are available via the link above.

### **Transitional Arrangements/ Working Group**

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, a working group has been set up to look at the LINK governance arrangements. This group has now met three times and is due to meet again in early August. . The group continues to work on a model for the LINK and governance arrangements. The group will in future be supported by Kent and Medway Networks.

### **Future Newsletters**

This is the last newsletter produced by Kent County Council. Kent and Medway Networks will produce future newsletters on the work of the LINK and related matters.

**Please forward on this newsletter wherever possible, and get in touch if further information is required. Our newsletters are also made available via our website.**

**Should you require further information about any issues raised in this newsletter, please contact Mary Blanche:**

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