

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

10 JUNE 2008

Update on the Sunderland Local Involvement Network (LINK)

Report by Age Concern - Host Organisation

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to update the Partnership Board on the establishment of the Local Involvement Network in Sunderland.

2. Background

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 announced the establishment of Local Involvement Networks, to replace the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health. The purpose of the LINK is to give local people the opportunity to be involved and influence the way that local health and social care services are developed and delivered. Local Authorities were required to procure a host organisation who would be responsible for setting up and supporting the LINK. In Sunderland, the host organisation is Age Concern Sunderland.

3. Progress to Date

- The host organisation was appointed with effect from 1 April
- Age Concern now has the following staff in post:
 - a Co-ordinator
 - a Development Worker
 - an Administrator
 - a Web Developer
- To distinguish the LINK from Age Concern, a separate base on Stockton Road has been allocated. This base is easily accessible for members of the public who want to be involved with the LINK
- A Website has been developed (www.sunderlandlink.org.uk)
- Priorities for the host to develop the LINK have been identified as:
 - Developing a communication plan
 - Producing a public information leaflet
 - Mapping of existing groups and forums that can form LINK
 - To establish working protocols and governance arrangements
- A LINK Transitional Steering Group has been established consisting of statutory health and social care representatives; carers, members of the BME

Network and the 2 chairs of the previous PPI Forums. The first meeting was held in May and the Group will guide and inform the work of the LINK.

4. Recommendations

The Partnership Board are requested to receive this report for information.