

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care**

Date: **27 November 2008**

By: **Director of Law and Personnel**

Title of report: **Co-opting a LINK member onto the ASC Scrutiny Committee**

Purpose of report: **To outline the process for co-opting a LINK member to the ASC Scrutiny Committee**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. co-opt a LINK member onto the ASC Scrutiny Committee and support a report being presented to the Governance Committee to formalise this arrangement; and**
 - 2. agree that the flowchart attached at appendix 1 is used as the process for handling referrals to the ASC Scrutiny Committee from the LINK**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report are minimal and are outlined in paragraph 3.3.

2. Background Information

2.1 In April 2008 the Government replaced Public Patient Involvement Forums (PPIFs) with a new structure – Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). Unlike PPIFs, LINKs have an additional responsibility to consider social care services within their area (although not in relation to children). The LINK therefore has the power to make recommendations to both the Social Care authority, as well as the NHS, regarding any issues they have on the services that they are providing.

2.2 On 6 March 2008 a seminar on LINKs was held for members of the ASC Scrutiny Committee, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and other County Councillors. This provided detailed information about LINKs' development nationally and locally. It was also an opportunity for ASC and HOSC committee members to consider how they wished to involve the East Sussex LINK with their committee.

2.3 Since this seminar Janet Colvert, Chair of the Interim Core Group for the East Sussex LINK, has been attending ASC Scrutiny Committee meetings on an informal basis, as well as taking part in a recent tabletop scrutiny review on community equipment.

2.4 The East Sussex LINK has done a great deal of work over the past 18 months in setting up its policies and procedures, as well as developing working relationships with Health and Adult Social Care. Elections have now taken place for the Core Group, which will take over from the Interim Core Group in December. It is now an opportune time to formalise the arrangements for LINK involvement with the ASC Scrutiny Committee.

3. Co-opted LINK member on the ASC Scrutiny Committee

3.1 In accordance with national legislation, co-opted members are not entitled to vote at overview and scrutiny committee meetings. Aside from this restriction though, the co-opted member will be encouraged to play a full and active role on the ASC Scrutiny Committee. As well as attending formal committee meetings and informal boards meetings, they will be invited to take part in scrutiny reviews as and when their other commitments allow. The co-opted member will also be invited to attend visits arranged for the committee to ASC establishments and to take part in committee training and away days.

3.2 As with county councillor members of the committee, the co-opted member will be bound by the Code of Conduct, as outlined in part 5 of the East Sussex County Council Constitution. They will be bound by the confidentiality and impartiality protocols and will be asked to complete a declaration of interest form on taking up their position. It will also be their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interests under the terms of the Code of Conduct at the start of each scrutiny meeting or review board which they attend.

3.3 The co-opted member will be provided with travel expenses and any other out of pocket expenses that are incurred whilst carrying out their role on the committee.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is asked to co-opt a LINK member onto the committee and that a report is presented to the Governance Committee in spring 2009 to formalise this arrangement.

4.2 Earlier this year the HOSC agreed a process for handling referrals from the LINK. This process has been amended to suit the ASC Scrutiny Committee and is attached at appendix 1 for information. The Committee is asked to support the use of this process for handling referrals from the LINK.

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Local Members: All

Appendix 1 – Flowchart of the process for the ASC Scrutiny Committee to handle referrals from the LINK

