

RECOMMENDATION: EXTERNAL TRAINING COURSE FOR LINK EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

RECOMMENDATION:

- The Link Executive should be offered the opportunity to attend a day's training on Links run by the Health Service Journal. This would be paid for by Link funds.
- The course is a full day course on March 16th in at the NH Harrington Hall Hotel, 5-25 Harrington Gardens, South Kensington, London SW7 4JW.
- The full brochure is attached. The recommendation is that we attend the one pre conference seminar training only. More information can be found here:

<http://www.emapconferences.co.uk/publicengagement/programme/preconferenceseminar/index.jsp>

BENEFITS:

- The objectives of the conference appear to be of benefit to the Link Executive, particularly a new one like ourselves. They are to:
 - Explore the role and powers of LINKs
 - Gain an improved understanding of the ways of working within social care
 - Examine the implications of the increase in accountability of Local Authorities
 - Maximise the potential of LINKs in practice
 - Network with peers from across the country and explore what is happening in other localities
 - Put your questions to our panel of host organisations, featuring speakers from Early Adopter areas
- This is not a regular conference and so is likely to be a one off opportunity and coincides well with the creation of our new Link Executive.

COST:

- The cost for the training is £249 per delegate + VAT.

COURSE DETAILS:

09.30 - Registration and refreshments

10.00 - Opening remarks from the Chair

10.10 - Exploring the role and powers of LINKs

- From PPI Forums to LINKs: Examining key differences between the systems
- Determining where LINKs fit in with existing membership structures
- Understanding the new directions of LINKs: exploring the implications of a Local Authority driven system for public engagement
- Defining the boundaries of LINKs regulatory powers:
 - Entering and viewing services
 - Requesting responses in a given timeframe
- Understanding the responsibilities of the host organisation and their relationship with the overview and scrutiny committee

10.50 - Question and answer session

11.00 - Morning refreshments and networking session

11.20 - Working with social care and understanding their challenges

- Examining the structures of social care services
- Understanding social care regulatory frameworks and how they interact with LINKs
- Overcoming the challenges of working with multiple, disparate providers

12.00 - Question and answer session

12.10 - Understanding how LINKs will map across different organisations, from NHS, to Local Authorities and Social Care

- Broadening horizons: Understanding the key challenges facing social care
- Implications of the shifting balance of accountability passing to Local Authorities
- Determining how different Trusts working within the same local authority will standardise information
- Aligning systems and working with multiple LINKs

Verna Fee, *Primary Care and public Engagement Head*, **County Durham PCT**

12.50 - Question and answer session

13.00 - Lunch

14.00 - LINKs in action: Maximising their potential in practice

- Working in partnership effectively
- Constructing joint agendas
- Developing flexible and robust information for sharing between disparate organisations
- Unifying systems and sharing information
- Examining how LINKs can help with:
 - Service Reviews
 - Engagement programmes
 - Consultations

Jane Hartley, *Chief Executive*, **Pioneering Care Partnerships, County Durham LINK**

14.40 - Question and answer session

14.50 - Host organisation panel discussion

Network with peers from across the country as you discuss in groups the challenges and opportunities presented by LINKs. Then put your questions to our panel of LINKs host organisations.

Melvyn Newton, *Project Manager*, **Bradford LINK**

Sue Jennings, *Project Development Manager*, **Pioneering Care Partnerships, County Durham LINK**

Senior Representative, **CEMVO**

15.40 - Chair's closing remarks and end of seminar

SUBMITTED BY MARK CLARKE