



Health Select Committee
6th December 2006

**Report from the
Director of Policy & Regeneration**

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)
Task Group- Update**

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report updates members on developments in relation to the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) Task Group established at the last meeting of this Committee.

2.0 Detail

2.1 At its last meeting (4th October) this Committee agreed to establish a time limited task group to consider how LINKs relate to both the Council structure and the Health and Social Care Partnership Board of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

2.2 It was agreed that the group would comprise Councillors and the Chair of the tPCT PPIF, drawing evidence from partners and other relevant groups. The work of the group would be supported by officers in Policy & Regeneration and Housing & Community Care.

2.3 The following members were nominated by their respective political groups:

- **Cllr John Detre**
- **Cllr Ralph Fox**
- **Cllr Daniel Bessong**

In addition, **Mansukh Raichura**, Chair of the Brent tPCT, PPIF was invited to join the task group.

2.4 The task group holds its first meeting on the 28th November 2006.
A verbal update on progress will be given to the committee.

2.5 The task group expects to present its final report back to this committee on its meeting of the 13th February 2007.

3.0 Background

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

3.1 The Government's vision for public and patient involvement "A stronger local voice" (Department of Health) outlines the creation of LINKs as an attempt to improve and formalise public input into the planning, development, and commissioning of services.

3.2 The Government's proposals seek to:

- Create an independent voice at a local level in commissioning health and care services.
- Provide flexible ways for communities to engage with health and social care organisations.
- Create a strengthened system of user involvement and promote public accountability in health and social care.
- Allow for a stronger user voice in regulation and in the regulation of involvement.

3.3 It is suggested that the development of the LINK will occur within the context of the Local Strategic Partnership's Health and Social Care Partnership Board and the Council's Overview & Scrutiny structure.

3.4 The Council and Brent tPCT have issued a joint response to the consultation to the LINKs consultation. This response has provided a basis for the LINKs working group's discussions.

Appendices

Appendix (A)

Open Letter "To all local authority chief executives with social services responsibilities" from Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State, Department of Health, November 2006.

Background Papers*

**Available on request*

"A stronger local voice: A framework for creating a stronger local voice in the development of health and social care services", Department of Health, July 2006-Information document.

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