Lambeth LINk Report to Health and Adults Services Scrutiny Sub Committee

January 24, 2013

1. Lambeth LINk provides regular reports to HASSC on the issues and activities of the Lambeth LINk. This report sets out the main issues, concerns and activities of the Lambeth LINk since October 2012.

2. Local Healthwatch Regulations
   The Government have issued regulations for Local Healthwatch which include clauses that exclude Healthwatch from promoting or opposing changes in the law, or in "policy adopted by any governmental or public authority in relation to any matter" except as incidentally to its other business. This, and other clauses in the regulations are of concern to Lambeth LINk, and we would be interested to hear the views of the Committee, and consider relevant actions.

3. Working with Lambeth Council:
   3.1. Roundtable meetings with Cllr Jim Dickson – the next roundtable meeting is due to be scheduled shortly.
   3.2. A major part of the LINk’s workplan for 2012/13 is to engage with the Council on service areas subject to review and consultation, supporting public involvement and challenging the Council to follow robust processes. The LINk is participating in the Carers Review Reference Group, and is contributing to the End to End and Day Services Reviews.
   3.3. Lambeth LINk members have continued to contribute to Lambeth Council’s Welfare Reform Reference Group. The Council’s Welfare Reform Task Group contributes articles on the changes to welfare benefits and the action the Council is taking to mitigate the effect of these changes on Lambeth residents in the Lambeth LINk newsletter
   3.4. The LINk is still awaiting a response to its request for information relating to an updated Equality Assessment on the reassessment of the Discretionary Freedom Pass, final reassessment statistics and the process for coordinating the various Council reviews currently being undertaken. For example, day services, accessible transport, carers’ services and the end to end process.
   3.5. The LINk has attended the Council’s Corporate Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Panel Meetings to examine the EqIAS on the Council Tax Support Scheme, Emergency Support Scheme and the Older People’s Housing Strategy.
3.6. Children’s Trust Board and CYPS CVS Forum – LINk representatives now regularly attend these meetings, and will be developing this new area of work for Healthwatch together with these bodies.

4. **Working with Health partners in Lambeth:**

4.1. **Lambeth LINk response to the Trust Special Administrator draft recommendations on the future of South London Healthcare Trust**

The LINk responded to the consultation on the draft recommendations stating our concerns over the downgrading of Lewisham Hospital’s Accident and Emergency Department, the lack of availability of Health Equality Impact Assessments during the consultation period and the impact on Lambeth residents who are required to travel to Lewisham for their day surgery.

We also have a more general concern about the capacity of primary care to take on all the work from acute care providers, without it affecting primary care standards and access.

4.2. **Patient feedback to primary care services**

**Patient Participation Group (PPG) Pilot Project**

Research has been completed on the progress of each of the 12 PPGs involved in the pilot. These PPGs involved in the pilot have met twice to discuss and share ideas on how they can strengthen and improve their groups. Practice Managers also attended the meeting. The initial findings of the pilot will be discussed at a closed CCG seminar on 23rd January.

**PPG Network**

A number of PPG Network members have attended the Royal Society for Public Health Healthy Living Champion Training, and it is hoped that this is the start of a training programme.

4.3. **Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group (LCCG)**

The LCCG is setting up an Engagement, Equalities and Communication Sub-Committee. This committee includes representatives of Lambeth LINk, the PPG network and the voluntary sector. A workshop is being held in February to discuss the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the committee and workplan for the committee. The Council is represented at this committee,

4.4 **South London and Maudsley (SLaM) Hospital Psychological Therapies Service**

LINk is continuing to engage with SLaM on their psychological therapy services review. The LINk attends regular meetings and is represented on
3.5 **LCCG Enhanced Services Review**
LINk Member Catherine McLoughlin is the LINk representative on the Enhanced Services Review Working Group. The group discussed the proposed closure of the Walk in Centre at Gracefield Garden. The LINk were concerned that closure will take place without sufficient consultation with Lambeth residents. This was raised at a LCCG Board Meeting, where it was agreed that the centre will be kept open for another 12 months with shorter hours. The LCCG are proposing that the centre closes from 8am to 11am. Consultation and an EIA will be carried out on this proposal.

5. **Lambeth Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)**
The LINk and LDPB have agreed to work together on health and social care issues affecting people with learning disabilities, which will include
- providing an update on LINk/Healthwatch work
- gather feedback on key issues the LDPB are addressing. For example issues around GP services can be fed back into the LINk Patient Participation Group (PPG) Project.
- training people with learning disabilities to take part in joint Enter and View visits with the LINk.
Lambeth LINk Steering Group Member David Town is representing the LINk on the board.

6. **Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB)**

**Health and Wellbeing Strategy Planning Group**
The LINk has attended several planning group meetings and recommended that citizens are involved in the drafting of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which has been approved in draft form and has to be agreed by the end of March 2013. LINk will report on the latest position on this.

We were also involved in the planning of the Health and Wellbeing Consultation event in November and a number of LINk Voluntary Sector Members gathered feedback from this meeting. We want to be active in representing citizen views on the HWBB.

7. **Development plans for HealthWatch Lambeth (HWL)**
The Healthwatch Co-Production Steering Group is developing the social enterprise for Healthwatch Lambeth. The LINk legacy is key to producing an effective Healthwatch Lambeth. We will report verbally on the progress on this.
8. **LINk Dignity and Respect Sub-Group**

8.1. **Enter and View (E&V)**

The Sub-group is now discussing learning from these visits to review and strengthening E&V processes and tools in preparation for Healthwatch Lambeth.

The LINk has met with Lambeth Council’s Contract Monitoring Manager to discuss LINk E&V and the benefits of information sharing.

The group will comment on the Lambeth Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board report on findings and recommendations from the Serious Case Review on Winterbourne View Hospital.

8. **Safeguarding Service User project (Hidden Voices)**

The project has been named “Hidden Voices”.

The aim of the project is to increase user voice in Safeguarding Adults in Lambeth; there are two strands to the project:

- To recruit and support a Service User Panel made up of service users and carers across all client groups. Panel members will act as ambassadors and experts by experience on a range of issues, including, but not restricted to, their experience of adult safeguarding arrangements in Lambeth. The Panel will work with the Safeguarding Adults Board to develop and embed permanent mechanisms to ensure that service user feedback informs changes to the partnership’s safeguarding procedures and practice.

- Safer Neighbourhood Panels: This project will recruit volunteers to represent the safeguarding agenda on the borough-wide Safer Neighbourhood Panels. These volunteers will help raise the profile of safeguarding across the borough, and ensure that those people in the community who are most vulnerable are protected when subject to violence and abuse.

- The project started in September 2012 and we are currently continuing with outreach to community groups and recruiting volunteers.

9. **LINk Steering Committee Meetings**

Meetings have included presentations and discussions on the

- Redesign of Adult Social Care Assessment, Planning and Review process
- Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity – Exploring Our Futures Project working together with the LINk
- Development of Healthwatch Lambeth
- MyHealthLondon

10. South East London LINk Chairs and Hosts meetings
Lambeth LINk continues to meet regularly with other LINks in SE London.

Nicola Kingston/Aisling Duffy, Co-Chairs,
Lambeth LINk,