

Selection of authorised representatives



Under the LINK legislation, certain individuals can be authorised to enter, view and observe health and social care activities being carried out – these individuals are known as ‘authorised representatives’. More information about LINK visits, the process through which they are planned and how they are carried out can be found in the ‘Code of Conduct relating to visits to enter and view services’ document, which can be found at www.linkdevon.org.uk on the ‘Governance’ page.

There are a number of steps that a participant of LINK Devon must follow in order to become an authorised representative:

1. Participants indicate, on their registration form, that they:
 - a. Wish to be registered as ‘active’ participants
 - b. Are interested in applying to be part of a team of authorised representatives
2. They are then asked to complete a short application form, which is assessed by a nominated LINK participant (for LINK Devon, this is the Governance representative who sits on the Strategic Planning Group and leads the Governance Sub Group). Selection is based on:
 - a. Ensuring that the team includes people from all Districts of Devon
 - b. Ensuring that authorised representatives have experience or knowledge of the service that they will be visiting. For the purposes of establishing the team, visits are categorised as involving:
 - Primary Care
 - Secondary/Acute Care
 - Mental health and Learning Disability
 - Social Care
 - c. Ensuring that the team can demonstrate impartiality and eliminating, as far as possible, any interests in the service or facility that may be perceived by others as a conflict.
3. Have a Criminal records Bureau check, in line with section 113A of the Police Act 1997, and have a certificate to verify this; and
4. Attend an annual ‘enter and view’ workshop.