



Your voice on health and social care in Devon

Newsletter



East Devon Volunteer Support Agency

Registered charity: 1070642



Stronger voice, better care

September 2008

Interim Steering Group appointed

The Devon LINK congratulates the newly appointed members of its Interim Steering Group and warmly welcomes them to the work ahead of moving the Network into its next stage. After an independent selection process that matched posts with people the Group now has a diverse range of members with experience and skills in many fields to compliment the work of the LINK in its job of monitoring Devon's health and social care. Future work for the Network could include issues such as monitoring the cleanliness of our hospitals, ensuring dental services are available and that care in the community is working well for older people and people who experience mental ill health.

Newly appointed Chair of the Devon LINK Interim Steering Group, Derrick Roach, said "I am delighted to be involved with such a worthwhile project and will ensure that we continue to recruit and engage with communities in Devon and gather views about health and social care. We intend to make a difference to the health and well being of Devon people and warmly invite more groups and individuals to join us in building this exciting new network".

Joining Derrick are:

- Carol Brown (Treasurer)
- Susan Howell-Richardson (Governance)
- Rosemary Whitehurst (Community Engagement)
- George-Alfred Husband (Communications)
- Marjorie Brace (Diversity)
- Malcolm Froude (Older People's Representative)
- Dan Kjellgren (Young People's Representative)
- Jean Waldron (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities)
- Debbie Avery (Carer's Representative)

The role of the Interim Steering Group is to enable the LINK to decide on a robust model of governance which would serve the interests of all in the County and the group will operate until 31st March 2009. It is also tasked with ensuring that the LINK is well run, carries out its activities properly, is open and accountable and gets results in this important early stage of development.

LAUNCH EVENTS...a few spaces still remain at some events...contact the office to book your place

16th: Tavistock United Reformed Church

17th: Totnes Civic Hall

23rd: The Barnstaple Hotel

25th: Exeter Riverside Christian Centre

30th: Mackarness Hall, Honiton

6th Oct: Moorhayes Community Centre, Tiverton

Join us to find out more about the Devon LINK and have your say on how it should be shaped.

The events, all held in the afternoon, will include a **Devon Cream Tea**.

Contact the Devon LINK (details overleaf) to register your place.

If you would like to receive this Newsletter in another format, please contact the Devon LINK Team on 01404 549045 or email devonlink@edvsa.org.uk

Devon LINK Website goes LIVE! www.devonlink.org.uk

The Devon LINK Team has been working hard to spread news about the Devon LINK and to encourage people to get involved throughout Devon.

Newsletters have been distributed widely and all pharmacies, GP surgeries, libraries and MPs in Devon have been sent posters and newsletters. Articles have also been submitted to community newsletters and magazines and two press releases issued with more planned post launch events during September.

The new website is now live and will be further developed as LINK work progresses to include a 'chatroom' and messaging service. Feedback about lots of new ways of communicating has been received from groups such as video linking and the use of 'YouTube' and 'Facebook'.

The website is an important milestone for the Devon LINK, as it enables many people, such as young people, and the working population of Devon, to get involved in more varied ways. The chat room forum will be an alternative method of canvassing for opinions on issues and allow members to 'have their say'.

The site will also provide facts and information about the LINK and the work it is doing such as the minutes from meetings, reports, newsletters and events.

Please have a look at our website and let us know what you think. We would like to continually update and revise the content and welcome the opportunity to make it more relevant to visitors. There is also a 'FAQ' page, which will be updated regularly to reflect the questions and feedback that we receive.

The Devon LINK reaches out

The Host's Community Engagement Team have been finding new ways to communicate the LINKs message. The full team is now in place, with outreach workers based in Ottery St Mary, Tavistock and Newton Abbot. These workers are in touch with local communities - going to the places and groups where local people meet and finding out what they want the LINK to look like and what is important to them about the services they receive.

The team is also targeting groups that are seldom heard. Asylum seekers, faith groups, refugees, travellers, young people and offenders are some of the groups that they are currently talking to.

Information

More information on LINKs, including a useful range of guides, is available from:
www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk.

To find out more about LINKs policy visit:
www.dh.gov.uk/links

To find out what is happening locally, contact the Devon LINK.

Feedback from the Launch Events will be available in the next Devon LINK Newsletter and on our website.

If you would like to us to include something in future newsletters, please contact the Devon LINK Team.

**You can contact the Devon LINK by phone on 01404 549045, by fax on 01404 814215 or by email: devonlink@edvsa.org.uk. You can complete a webform on our website, www.devonlink.org.uk, or you can write to us:
The Devon LINK, FREEPOST RRXT-TSRC-YRLC, Ridgeway House
Ridgeway, OTTERY ST MARY Devon EX11 1DT**