

What's Happening at your Doncaster Local Involvement Network?

2010 Executive Board Election

In February 2010 an election was held by postal ballot for two places on the Doncaster LINK Executive Board. There were five nominees in total; the votes were opened and counted at the Executive Board meeting on February 16th 2010. The results were: John Plant 27, Kay Kirk 25, Ronald Hughes 9, Dennis Shaw 7 and Janet Turner 6. Congratulations to John and Kay and thanks to all other nominees. Thanks also to Dennis Shaw for his contribution during the past year, to Prabhita Singh and to John Plant for their attendance as observers to the count.

Annual General Meeting

The Doncaster LINK will be holding their 2010 Annual General Meeting on Friday 11th June 2010 from 12 noon to 2pm at the Doncaster Trades, 18 South Mall, Frenchgate Centre, Doncaster, DN1 1LL. A buffet and refreshments will be provided. By attending the event you will be brought up to date on what your LINK has achieved in the previous year.

Doncaster LINK - On Going Work Plans

GP Access

The report of the work undertaken during the past 10 months by the working group on this topic has now been completed and published. It is available on the Doncaster LINK website or a hard copy can be requested from the Host.

Discharge from Hospitals and After Care

The sub-group continued to meet throughout 2009. Background information, opinions and assistance was received from many health and social care managers and practitioners who co-operated fully with LINK. A questionnaire was devised by the sub-group with reference to communication, medicine, transport and after care. The target group was intended to include any person who had been an inpatient of Doncaster Royal Infirmary during 2009 and who had received after care in the community. The questionnaire was placed on the Doncaster LINK website and circulated to service user groups. In addition patients were interviewed personally by group members. A total of 108 (12 1/2%) survey questionnaires were returned and the findings have been collated. A report was completed in April 2010 which is available on our website. Recommendations have been made to service providers and progress on the issues raised will be evaluated during 2010.

Chiropody in Thorne/Moorends Sub-Group

A new sub-group has been formed based around chiropody in the Thorne/Moorends area. Concerns were highlighted to LINK members at an information sharing event that took place at on 28th January 2010 at Moorends Miners Welfare and Development Centre. If you would like to become actively involved please contact one of the Host team.

Doncaster LINK - New Sub-Groups

SINE FM

The Executive Board agreed to advertise on the local radio station - SINE FM. Subsequently, a sub-group is being formed to become actively involved in monthly chats live on air. For involvement contact the Host team.

Doncaster LINK - New Host Team Leader

Welcome to our new Team Leader Donna Cibor who joined us in January 2010. Donna has been very busy during the past four months getting to know about the LINK work, the NHS, Local Authority and other LINKs. She has also been active at our coffee mornings.

Doncaster LINK - Out And About In The Community

LINK Meets Up With Health Focus Group 20th January 2010

LINK members joined the Woodlands and Highfields focus group meeting which was very informative. The focus group will be held every month until the forum is established. The members consist of statutory, voluntary and community sectors regarding health issues around Woodlands and Highfields. The aim of the group is to promote information sharing to identify health needs and gaps in services whilst promoting new activities and health services. The LINK will be taking part in future events.

Thorne Moorends Information Sharing Event

Thorne Moor Working Group invited LINK members to hold an event on 28th January 2010 at the 'Thursday Over 40's Club'. During the event LINK members had the opportunity to discuss any concerns relating to health and social care in the community. An issue with chiropody was identified and the Executive Board suggested a sub-group be formed to look into the issue raised. The event proved to be a great success with nine new members signing up for membership on the day.

Carcroft and Skellow Event

LINK members attended the above event on 4th February 2010 at the Bullcroft Memorial Hall, Carcroft. Despite the heavy snowfall, local people attended in high numbers to be involved in the day's events. The event began at 1pm and continued through to 4.45pm. There was singing and dancing from local primary schools, face painting and many other activities. It was a very enjoyable day with four additional new LINK members.

Highfields Fun Day

The above event was held on 18 February 2010 at the local school and was very well attended by the local community and partner agencies. It was especially nice to see so many families in attendance. Members issued merchandise and literature to spread the word of your Doncaster LINK. During the event new members were recruited.

Coffee Morning - Mexbrough Children's Centre 9th February 2010

The LINK held a coffee morning at the Mexbrough Children's Centre. LINK members chatted and mingled with the general public and partner agencies who had attended on the day. The event provided an ideal opportunity for members to meet new people whilst promoting the LINK and seven new members were recruited during the course of the event.

Coffee Morning - Linney Centre, Balby 3rd March 2010

This event proved to be worthwhile from an existing members point of view. Inductions were carried out and new members were recruited.

Coffee Morning - Housing 21 13th April 2010

Doncaster LINK held its third coffee morning of 2010 at Housing 21 in the friendly surroundings of Charles Court, Armthorpe. There was a high level of attendance and the event proved to be very successful in introducing the LINK to members of the public. As a direct result of the event nine new members were recruited and 2 contacts for future events were made.

Information Communication and Engagement (ICE) Group

The ICE group plays an important part in the LINK. It is the driving force for all events around the borough and raises awareness of the role it plays in health and social care. It has filled its function between service users and providers, engaging and managing effective planning and reviewing its performances as a group. It has regular monthly coffee mornings. This is where Doncaster people are invited to come along, have a chat about what they think about service provision at which time any concerns can be identified. Residents are updated on future work plans, become members or have their existing membership updated. Members also engage and liaise with partner agencies, as networking with service providers will have a lasting benefit for the LINK and help make a difference to the future of service provision. Through consultations, coffee mornings and events, the ICE group has been able to identify specific concerns resulting in the formation of sub-groups to address the issues. These events are also ideal opportunities to increase membership. Since January 2010 a total of sixty two people have become members of the LINK.

The future plans of the group are to actively raise public awareness of the role LINK plays within communities, to be involved with cross agency events that promote health and social care, to identify specific concerns that have a real impact on the Doncaster people it has consulted with and increase LINK membership.

Doncaster LINK 360° Host Evaluation

In order to assess the performance of the LINK Host (Carers Federation) in carrying out their role of support to the LINK, a number of assessment forms were sent to several members for completion by the Contract Manager, John Leask. The results of the assessments have been extremely positive showing how well the LINK is served by the Host team and how satisfied members are with the level of support given, which in itself is imperative for the success of the LINK.

Doncaster LINK - Become a Member

Doncaster LINK welcomes all new members, to join contact the Host team by one of the following:

Tel:	01302 554970	Typetalk:	01302 554970
Mobile/Text:	07739 237452	Fax:	01302 554996
Website:	www.doncasterlink.co.uk	Email:	doncaster.admin@carersfederation.co.uk