

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Members the opportunity to consider the Nottinghamshire Local Involvement Network's Annual Report for 2011/12.

**Information and Advice**

2. For a number of years successive Governments have encouraged public involvement in health (and latterly social care) matters via statutory engagement vehicles: initially Community Health Councils, then Public and Patient Involvement Forums (PPIF), and currently Local Involvement Networks (LINK).
3. LINKs were established in 2008 in every local authority area with social care responsibilities (in accordance with the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act). They are volunteer-led organisations and provide the following functions that support improved commissioning and quality of local health and social care services:
  - Promoting and supporting the involvement of people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of health and social care services
  - Obtaining the views of people about their needs for and experiences of local services.
  - Conveying those views to organisations responsible for commissioning, providing, managing and scrutinising health and social care services and recommending how services can be improved.
4. The work of LINKs is supported by professional administrative staff: the LINK 'host'. Hosts are contracted by the relevant local authority, but must be independent of local authorities and NHS trusts. Currently, host services for the Nottinghamshire LINK are provided by the Carers' Federation.

5. LINKs are required to publish an Annual Report by 30th June each year covering activities undertaken in the previous financial year. The format of the Annual Report is prescribed by guidance from the Department of Health (DH). The Nottinghamshire LINK has previously presented its Annual Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as required under statute. Following the changes to the County Council's constitution, the duty to receive the Annual Report will now fall to Policy Committee.
6. This meeting provides the opportunity for Members to receive the Nottinghamshire LINK Annual Report which is provided as an Appendix to this report. Representatives of the LINK will attend the meeting to inform Members of how the LINK has been effective in meeting its core objectives and priorities for 2011/12.
7. It should be noted that the Health & Social Care Act (2012) introduces another organisational change to statutory public / patient engagement vehicles, replacing LINKs with new bodies called Healthwatch (HW). Healthwatch will exist at the national level as Healthwatch England and at the local level as Local Healthwatch.
8. The Act requires every local authority with social care responsibilities to establish a Local Healthwatch for their area by 1 April 2013 and to subsequently contract manage the Local HW. LINKs will cease on 31 March 2013. Proposals are currently being developed for a Nottinghamshire Local Healthwatch and these will be brought for consideration by Policy Committee in the Autumn 2012.

### **Other Options Considered**

9. No other options have been considered. There is a statutory requirement for the Nottinghamshire LINK to present its Annual Report to the relevant Committee of the County Council which, following constitutional changes, has been deemed to be Policy Committee.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. See paragraph 9.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) It is recommended that the Policy Committee receive the 2011/12 Annual Report of the Nottinghamshire County LINK.

**Jayne Francis-Ward**  
**Corporate Director Policy Planning and Corporate Services**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments ([SG 27/06/2012])**

12. The Committee has the authority to consider the issues set out in this Report.

**Financial Comments ([RK 29/6/12])**

13. The report contains no financial implications.

**Background Papers**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Annual Report can be found here:-

<http://www.strongerlocalvoice.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/Annual-Report-2011-121.pdf>

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All