



Bath and North East Somerset Local Involvement Network

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Dear Sir Ian

B&NES and Wiltshire PCT Cluster - Joint Commissioning

The Bath & North East Somerset Local Involvement Network has now been working with NHS B&NES and B&NES Council for over three years, and has during this time been impressed by the commitment of these bodies to the implementation of Joint Commissioning arrangements across the health and social care sectors. We are convinced that this very close partnership is of great benefit to service-users and carers in both sectors, and that it must not be lost as a result of NHS reorganisation.

We have been concerned already at the possible threat to these joint arrangements that may arise from the removal of community services in B&NES to a new Social Enterprise. We are even more concerned at the threat that may come from the clustering of the B&NES and Wiltshire PCT's. It seems to us that the latter is very far behind B&NES in the practical implementation of and the very strong commitment to joint commissioning, and we fear that a new PCT Cluster will have to compromise between the positions of the current PCT's, leading to a dilution of commitment to joint commissioning in our area. We are, of course, also aware of the recent resignation of the Chief Executive of NHS B&NES, which could lessen the impact of the PCT's legacy in this important area.

The LINK would be grateful for any comments the SHA can make on this, and for some reassurance that the valuable work done and structures evolved in B&NES for Joint Commissioning will not be lost as clustering arrangements are implemented.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Hall Hall
Chair, Bath & North East Somerset LINK

cc. Dr Ian Orpen, Chair, B&NES CCG
Cllr Vic Pritchard, Chair, B&NES Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
Cllr. Malcolm Hanney, Chair, NHS B&NES