



Bath and North East Somerset Local Involvement Network

Report to B&NES Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel, 27 January 2012

1. Hillview Lodge -AWP High Dependency Unit

The Impact Assessment for the proposed changes at the HDU has now taken place, and the LINK's Deputy Chair, Jill Tompkins, will contribute to the later agenda item on this.

2. HealthWatch

As the Panel will probably be aware, the start-date for Local HealthWatch has now been delayed again until April 2013. This will bring their start into line with that of the new Health & Wellbeing Boards. It was announced at the same time that additional money would be made available to Local Authorities for the establishment of Local HealthWatch and for the setting-up of Local HealthWatch Pathfinders,

The Health & Social Care Bill completed its Lords' Committee stage just before Christmas, and the date is awaited for commencement of the Lords' Report stage. A number of amendments pertinent to HealthWatch are being pursued by the Lords, the two main ones relating to the independence of HealthWatch: firstly, the inappropriateness of HealthWatch England being established as a committee of the Care Quality Commission, and secondly the threat to the local independence of Local HealthWatch from their funding by and contractual relationship with Local Authorities.

3. PCT Clustering and Joint Commissioning

At the Panel's last meeting on 18 November, we reported on the letter that the LINK had sent to Ian Carruthers, Chief Executive of the Strategic Health Authority, outlining its serious concerns over the future of the strong joint commissioning arrangements in B&NES when the B&NES and Wiltshire PCT's were joined together in a single PCT Cluster. We have now received a reply from Charles Howeson, Vice-Chair of the SHA, and this is attached for the Panel's information, together with our original letter.

4. LINK's Visits to Care Homes

The LINK has decided to make a small series of familiarisation visits to care homes in B&NES. It will start these with a visit to Heather House care home in Batheaston on 1 February.

Diana Hall Hall

Chair, B&NES Local Involvement Network

16 January 2012