



Darlington LINK Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION AGM 2011

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11th May 2011

LINK

Local Involvement
Network

Make your voice heard and
have your say in Health &
Social Care in **Darlington**.



AGM 11th May 2011

Darlington LINK held its 3rd AGM on Wednesday 11 May 2011 at the Dolphin Centre. The event was attended by over 60 people despite the civil ceremony going on in the town centre celebrating Darlington Football Club winning the FA Trophy triumph.

Paul Bell - Chairman of Darlington LINK opened the event and introduced key speakers. Firstly Elaine O'Brian from Darlington Borough Council gave the attendees information about the new Intermediate Care Plus Strategy. Followed by Dr Harry Byrne and David Gallagher who gave a presentation on the GP Consortia and the Health and Wellbeing Board. All presentations were well received and provided the basis of round table discussions which took place to gather questions which will be compiled by the host organisation and sent to the guest speakers for their comments. The findings will be shared with all attendees by 17 June 2011.

Michelle Thompson - Core Group member then went through the LINK activities of the past year and the way forward for the organisation as it moves into HealthWatch.

The minutes for the meeting and the presentations can be requested from the LINK office please contact the office on 01325 380145 or e-mail info@darlingtonlink.co.uk

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Budget

The LINK has a budget of £91,000 which is a slight reduction from the previous year of £5,000.

This is split between the host organisation Carers Federation and the LINK group.

Host costs include premises for the LINK office, office overheads, gas, electric, water etc, staff salaries, office equipment, computers, phones and stationary.

The LINK has £10,000 to be spent on things such as advertising, work planning, volunteer expenses, printing leaflets etc.



Task Groups

This is your chance to have your voice heard and have your say in health and social care in Darlington: Current Task Groups are:

Mental Health

The group are looking into access to the crisis team for people with Mental Health conditions.

Strokes

Stroke Acute services are currently under review a consultation process will be announced shortly. Once we have the information we will be letting the people of Darlington know so they can voice their thoughts.

GP Access

The Task group has now completed its second report on access to GP services

If you would like to be involved please contact the LINK office

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Issues and Concerns

Darlington LINK want to hear community issues and concerns regarding health and social care in Darlington. Please call the office with any concerns or fill out the form available at the office or on our website.