

Darlington LINK at the North East LINKs Regional Event 15/07/09



Darlington LINK joined up with the other 11 LINKs in the North East at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland. The aims of the day were to discuss if LINKs members wanted a regional LINK, if so how would it look and how would it work? on the afternoon members were invited to join workshops where they could share best practice and ideas around several issues including community engagement, work planning, equality and diversity and

enter and view.

Overview

AM

The day began with the key note speaker Joan Saddler (Department of Health National Director of Patient and Public Affairs) who spoke about her role and why public engagement and LINKs are important. Joan answered questions from the members.



The rest of the morning consisted of a workshop designed to discover if members wanted a regional LINK. Items discussed were the advantages and disadvantages, how it would be set up, financial issues and how many times a year the regional network would meet.

LUNCH

At lunch time there was an opportunity for members to look around the 'market place' of LINK promotional stalls to see what the other LINKs had been doing and also opportunity to network.



PM

After lunch Paul Johnson (Regional LINKs lead) feedback the discussions which took place in the morning. The general consensus was yes to a Regional network, however it would need to have a purpose and aim at sharing best practice and sharing information. It was also noted that resources would be needed, Paul said that if a regional network was to be set up he could put £4000 towards this.

After the feedback members went to individual workshops on topics such as personalisation, equality, recruiting members, community engagement, working planning and enter and view.

The event closed at 15:30

Next Steps

We are awaiting formal feedback and evaluation from the event. And the host organisations will meet to discuss the next steps.

