

How does Hull LINK differ from NHS Membership Schemes?



FACTSHEET 3

April 2009

There are now a number of ways people can get involved in health and care services. It's very important that people's views are taken into account in the design and delivery of services, and indeed the NHS and local authorities are now under a legal duty to involve and consult with the public.

While this is to be welcomed, it's understandable if people sometimes feel confused by the range of bodies urging them to sign up. This factsheet explains how Hull LINK (Local Involvement Network) differs from the membership schemes being run by NHS Trusts.

For an introduction to Hull LINK see Factsheet 1.

In Hull there are three NHS Trusts offering membership schemes:

- NHS Hull (Hull Teaching Primary Care Trust)
- Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust

So what are the differences between Hull LINK and NHS membership schemes?

- Hull LINK is **independent**, run by the people who participate in it. Hull LINK members will decide what its priorities should be and what issues it will investigate. Sometimes these may not match the priorities of NHS Trusts or the local authority.
- Hull LINK covers **health and social care** issues, so has a very wide remit looking at the NHS and City Council Adult Services. Hull LINK won't have the resources to look at every issue raised so will need to focus on key priorities, agreed by the members. It's very important that the LINK involve lots of people and groups in their work, and doesn't duplicate work going on elsewhere.
- Hull LINK has **legal powers** to examine services: to request information; to make reports and recommendations; and to enter and view premises where services are delivered. It can also refer issues to the Councils Scrutiny Commission for action.



www.hull-link.org.uk



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NHS membership schemes...

- Each scheme is run by the respective NHS Trust. Membership will be drawn from the public, patients and staff.
- Members can have a say on the work of the Trust and learn more about its work. Trusts will listen to members and where possible act on suggestions.
- NHS Foundation Trust membership schemes (Hospitals and Mental Health) will provide for members to elect a number of Trust Governors.
- Members may benefit from discounts on certain goods and services.

Hull LINK will always seek to preserve its independence and serve the best interests of the local community, but we're also committed to working with service providers in a productive way. We may look at issues from different perspectives, but if we make criticisms or recommend improvements they will always be constructive. We recognise that everyone concerned is seeking to provide quality services to the community and pledge to play our part in achieving this.

Hull LINK and the NHS Trusts are working together to avoid duplication of all our efforts. Our goals are all the same - to make sure the people of Hull have a high quality health service.

Hull LINK – A Stronger Voice in Health and Social Care Services

**To register with Hull LINK
and find out more contact us at:**

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**This factsheet and other information
produced by Hull LINK is available in a
range of formats upon request**

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