

COMMUNICATION AND JOINT WORKING PROTOCOL BETWEEN HULL LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK (LINK) AND THE ONE HULL VCS FORUM

Introduction

This protocol covers the relationship between the Hull Local Involvement Network (LINK) and the ONE HULL Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Forum.

Both bodies are committed to the ethos of partnership working as a means of influencing the planning, design, delivery and review of services and ensuring that the voices of local groups and individuals are an integral part of this process.

This protocol is designed to develop and promote effective communication and joint working arrangements to maximise the potential of collaborative work and the regular sharing of information, skills and knowledge.

The Hull Local Involvement Network (LINK)

The Hull Local Involvement Network is the independent body designed to ensure that the views of voluntary and community sector groups and individuals have a direct influence on the provision of local health and social care services. The legal powers of the LINK are defined within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Section 226) and the Local Involvement Network Regulations 2008.

The ONE HULL Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Forum

The ONE HULL VCS Forum is the body responsible for ensuring that the voluntary and community sector are pro-actively and meaningfully involved in all aspects of the work of the ONE HULL Local Strategic Partnership. This includes representation, consultation and strategic planning. The ONE HULL VCS Forum operates on both a Citywide and Area basis.

Information Sharing

Both the Hull LINK and the ONE HULL VCS Forum will share relevant information to ensure that both parties have a clear understanding of strategic developments and emerging issues in terms of health and social care provision and to identify potential areas of collaborative working. ONE HULL VCS Forum representatives will also

highlight the role of the Hull LINK in contributing to planned consultations and strategic plans within the ONE HULL Local Strategic Partnership.

The Hull LINK and the ONE HULL VCS Forum will share its work plans, agendas and minutes and identify specific areas in which collaborative working and joint planning would be beneficial.

The ONE HULL VCS Forum will also act as the mechanism whereby the outcomes of Hull LINK investigations and emerging issues are shared with strategic partners in the wider public, private and voluntary and community sectors.

Both the ONE HULL VCS Forum and the Hull LINK will distribute relevant information to their respective members on behalf of one another.

The Hull LINK Team Leader and the ONE HULL VCS Forum City Partnership Co-ordinator will be the designated officers responsible for this.

Collaborative and Joint Working

The Hull LINK and the ONE HULL VCS Forum will pro-actively work together in terms of events and consultations in respect of health and social care issues and service provision. This will ensure a maximisation of resources and a sharing of skills and knowledge which will enhance the work being undertaken.

Opportunities for collaborative and joint working will be identified by the Hull LINK Team Leader and the ONE HULL VCS Forum City Partnership Co-ordinator.

Attendance at Meetings

There will be no formal representation from either body at each other's meetings and the Hull LINK will not be a member of the ONE HULL VCS Forum as its legal status is different from other voluntary and community sector groups. Both bodies agree to send an appropriate representative to planned meetings in respect of specific agenda items.

Protocol

This protocol will be reviewed annually by both bodies and be confirmed as fit for purpose. This may also be amended by mutual agreement as and when required.