

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY?



Health and Social Care Services are changing in Devon. Your Local Involvement Network (LINK) gives you the opportunity to influence your local Health and Social Care Services and get the care you need.

Together, we have the power to implement small changes and influence big changes with key decision makers.

What does Devon LINK do now?

- ✓ Gather local views about Health and Social Care services.
- ✓ Engage with communities and individuals - particularly with hard to reach groups.
- ✓ Work with Trusts and Commissioners and feed views back to improve services.
- ✓ Get people actively involved in local decision making.
- ✓ Highlight local issues as identified by the community.
- ✓ Respond to local and national consultation opportunities.
- ✓ Visit services to gauge excellence and monitor delivery.

**Contact us to share
your views, receive
service news,
or get active with a
Health or Care issue
in your area.**

visit on-line

www.linkdevon.org.uk

call us:

01404 549045

mail us:

**[linkdevon@
edvsa.org.uk](mailto:linkdevon@edvsa.org.uk)**

**Over 1,000 groups
and individuals
already have!**

Your voice on health and social care in Devon

By April 2012 LINK will become Healthwatch!

In the recently proposed Health and Social Care Bill, the government outlined new plans for patient and public involvement and engagement in England. Local Authorities will have a duty to provide the new bodies that will be called Healthwatch organisations.

The proposals follow a consultation process on the White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*, in which the new arrangements were first published in July 2010.



What are the proposed Healthwatch functions?

- + A continuation of all LINKs' current functions.
- + Undertaking complaints and advocacy services.
- + Supporting individuals to make choices about Health and Social Care services.
- + A 'one stop shop' for information about Health and Social Care services.
- + Working more closely with the Care Quality Commission.
- + Working with the new GP Consortia, who will hold the budgets and commission services from 2013.
- + Representing local views at a new Health and Wellbeing Board.

Now's the time to get involved!

If you are passionate about ensuring that people in Devon receive the best services possible then now is the time to join us. In the coming years the NHS landscape will change rapidly and we need you to help us make sure that Devon's services improve.

- ✓ Help us highlight neglected issues or new ideas.
- ✓ Influence those who make decisions about new or existing services.
- ✓ Help your community speak with a stronger local voice.
- ✓ Help services provide care that works for you and your community.

How much of my time will it take?

You can give as little or as much of your time as you want to: LINK Devon encourages and supports participants to be as active as they wish to be, it's up to you!

How can I get involved?

- Tell us about your views and experiences.
- Share information that your group or community has collected.
- Be an ambassador for LINK Devon.
- Take part in work projects.
- Represent the LINK at Health and Social Care meetings, both locally and nationally.
- Take part in a programme of visits to monitor Health and Social Care services in your area.

Do I get any support?

You don't need to be an expert to get involved, just enthusiasm!

We offer free training and support to help you get involved, build your skills and give you confidence to have your say.



Contact us to join or find out more.