

# Nottinghamshire County **LINK**

Newark Strategy Task & Finish Group

Interim Report (March 2010)



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## Issue Origination

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A number of issues have been raised to the LINK in relation to Health and Social Care in Newark and Sherwood as a result of planned engagement activity.

These issues include concerns about:

- ❖ Delayed and unsafe discharge from hospital due to inadequate care packages in place
- ❖ Access to services for people in rural communities
- ❖ Newark Hospital Accident and Emergency Department
- ❖ Recruitment to homecare services
- ❖ Out of Hours services

## Background to the Task and Finish Group

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In response to Newark being identified as a Growth Point, NHS Nottinghamshire County are in the process of reviewing all health services in Newark and the surrounding villages.

Due to the scale of the review of services taking place in Newark, all of the issues which have been raised to the LINK are related to the review, and a Newark Service Review Task and Finish Group was set up so that Nottinghamshire County LINK could effectively deal with all of the concerns raised regarding Newark.

Due to debate around Newark Hospital, the review also has an impact in other geographical areas, for example, Accident and Emergency Departments at surrounding hospitals.

As part of their review of service in Newark, NHS Nottinghamshire County have conducted a statutory consultation to find out what services local people would like to see in place in Newark.

Between 5000 and 8000 additional homes will be built in Newark by 2016 as part of the Growth Point, and as a result, the town's population is set to increase by around 50% by 2030 with the number of people aged over 65 expected to double. The review is looking at the implications of this increase in population on the services provided in Newark in the future.

## Participants and partners involved in the group

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Because of the review of service in Newark, this Task and Finish Group has worked in close partnership with NHS Nottinghamshire County. Nottinghamshire County LINK participants have provided input to the review where possible and this has also been done in partnership with Lincolnshire LINK, whose participants have an interest in services in Newark.

## Activities

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There are two stages to the LINK's involvement in the Newark Service Review; pre-consultation and post-consultation. The activities to date are outlined below:

### Pre-Consultation Activities

#### ❖ **Communications & Engagement Group**

A member of the LINK Support Team has been attending the Communications & Engagement Group responsible for planning the consultation for the Newark Service Review since it began in 2009. This group was chaired by the Director of Communications at NHS Nottinghamshire County, and included representatives from all key stakeholders.

The remit of this group was to ensure best practise in consultation and engagement with local people the review of services in Newark.

#### ❖ **Project Board**

Nottinghamshire County LINK Executive Board member for Newark and Sherwood, Vanessa Gent, has been involved with the Newark

Review Project Board responsible for putting together the options for service provision in Newark in the consultation document.

#### ❖ **Criteria Workshops**

The LINK Task and Finish Group were invited to, and took part in a workshop in November 2009 to decide on the way that responses to the public consultation were analysed and weighted. (Eight LINK participants took part in this workshop)

#### ❖ **Public Meetings**

LINK participants attended public meetings held in Newark during the consultation period.

#### ❖ **Consultation Meeting**

A joint meeting was held between the Task and Finish Group and Nottinghamshire County LINK's Consultation Coordination Panel to compile the LINK's response to the Newark Service Review consultation. At the beginning of this meeting, the LINK participants were joined by Tracy Gaskill, Assistant Director Public Health and Lead for Newark Review, and Karlie Thompson, Deputy Director of Communications and Engagement at NHS Nottinghamshire County, who provided any background information that the group required before completing the consultation.

#### ❖ **Involvement Sessions**

LINK participants took part in focussed involvement sessions which explored the detail of the proposals.

## Where are we now? (March 2010)

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### Post-Consultation Activities

Nottinghamshire County LINK's Issues Panel has agreed to carry forward the work of the Newark Strategy Task and Finish Group into 2010. This will enable the LINK participants to continue to work in partnership with NHS Nottinghamshire County throughout the implementation of the review.

Nottinghamshire County LINK has agreed to be involved in a number of Work Streams which will be taking forward the work following the outcome of the consultation over the next year.