

**Protocols for partnership  
working between the  
Plymouth LINK and  
Plymouth Health and Adult  
Social Care Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**



## **Introduction**

Both LINKs and Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC's) have a role to identify important local issues by reaching out to the local people and communities. Although the roles and responsibilities of LINKs and OSCs are different they complement each other and are both part of a national framework for public involvement in Health and Social Care. It is essential that they work together, and both the Plymouth LINK and OSC are committed to developing this relationship to:

- improve and develop Health and Social Care services
- avoid duplication
- develop a strong community perspective on Health and Social Care
- add value to each other's roles

## **Building a relationship**

Plymouth LINK and OCS will develop partnership working through the following:

### **Meetings/Communication**

- LINK representative(s) to be co-opted onto the panel. The representative will be offered training and support to play an active role in the OSC.
- LINK representatives to have a dedicated slot on the agenda every other meeting to update on the LINK Work Plan (key issues and progress. The Host Team will work with the representative in preparation for the meeting and to feed back relevant information to the LINK and the Stewardship Group
- Regular contact between the manager of the Host Team and the Policy & Performance Officer.
- Host manager and Chair of the Stewardship Group to attend panel meetings at intervals to update on the LINK or feed into the discussions as needed.

- Weblinks between the LINK and OSC.
- Representative from the OSC to be invited to attend a Stewardship meeting twice a year.
- Publishing joint statements on common issues/areas of work.

### Priorities/work planning

- Work plans will be shared between the LINK and the OSC.
- Opportunities to work together on common issues will be explored as these arise.
- OSC can request LINK involvement/evidence on areas of interest where these will add value to their work. The LINK will decide if/how much it can get involved depending on LINK priorities and resources.
- LINK can formally refer issues to the OSC. This will be done on agreement from the Stewardship Group where the issue
  - ◇ is serious
  - ◇ fits in with the OSC remit
  - ◇ has not had a satisfactory outcome for the LINK

The OSC will decide whether or not it can/will be able to take on the issue, taking the evidence from the LINK into account, and communicate with the LINK as per regulations.

- Sharing information on commissioning cycles/health inequalities and annual events (such as Annual Health Check and public health reports).