

Why should voluntary and community groups and organisations get involved?

It is an opportunity to:

- raise your issues higher on the agenda of the statutory sector
- talk to those who make decisions about new or existing services
- join forces with others concerned about the same issues
- hold service providers to account on behalf of local people

How you can get involved in LINKs

To find your local LINK Lead contact your Local Authority.

For more information about LINKs visit:

www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk

Place your local contact details here

Contact links@ltca.org.uk
or call 020 7813 3643
to request a LINKs speaker at
your next event

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

An introduction for voluntary and community groups

LINKs have been set up to help
communities influence the way health
and social care services are delivered.
Make your voice count and get involved...



The National Centre
for Involvement

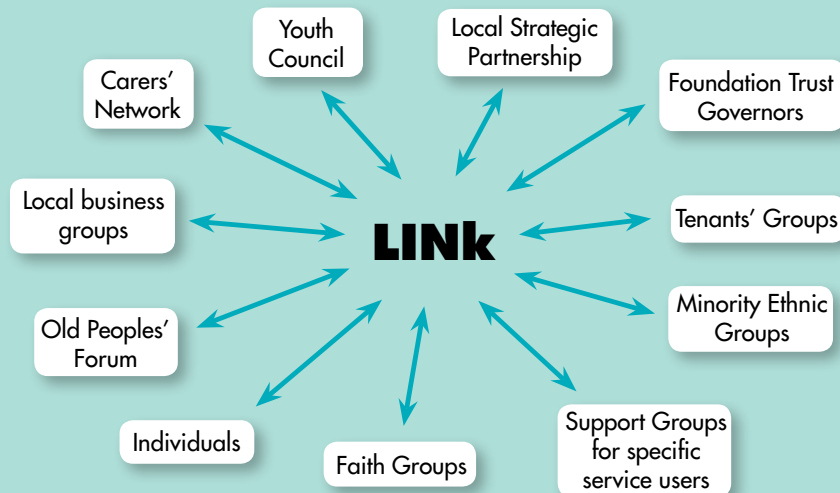
What is a LINK?

LINKs are networks of groups and individuals that have been set up to make sure that health and social care services are planned and delivered to meet the needs of the people that use them.

A LINK will:

- give everyone a chance to say what they think about local care services – what is going well and what is not so good
- give people a chance to check how care services are planned and run
- feed back what people have said about services so that things can change for the better.

A LINK might include the following:



What's special about a LINK?

A LINK will provide an opportunity for the whole community to say what they think about local services, to raise issues of concern and to question those who run services.

LINKs are supported by a Host organisation to help them develop and work. This means that any voluntary or community organisation can get involved and influence the work of the LINK.

LINKs have been given powers to help them carry out their role. These include being able to:

- ask commissioners for information about services and expect a response
- make recommendations and expect a response from commissioners
- refer matters to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Local Authority

These powers may help to strengthen the voice of the voluntary and community sector in ways that haven't happened before.

"I think LINKs are relevant to every community and voluntary organisation that is interested in health and care services. At last, community voices have been given the opportunity to have a real say. I hope everyone will commit their energy to making LINKs work."

David Pink, Chief Executive, Long-term Conditions Alliance