

HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: 28TH APRIL 2008

AGENDA ITEM:

TITLE: Local Involvement Network in Stockton-on-Tees – update report

REPORT PREPARED BY: Elaine Lamb

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides information on the recent progress of the implementation of the Local Involvement Network in Stockton-on-Tees. It provides an update on actions taken since the last report to the Committee on 10th March 2008 to form an Interim LINK and procure the “Host” organisation.

2. INTERIM LINK FORMATION

2.1 An event was held at the Oakwood Centre, Eaglescliffe on Friday 11th April 2008 for individuals and organisations interested in becoming LINK members. The aim of the event was to provide information about LINKs and stimulate interest in membership of the LINK.

2.2 The event was well publicised with advertisements in the Northern Echo, Evening Gazette and Stockton Herald & Post. In addition 2000 flyers were distributed to all elected members, 400 organisations throughout Stockton via Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association as well as to all libraries, GP surgeries, dental surgeries, care and nursing homes, sports centres, health clubs, veterinary surgeries, waiting areas in North Tees University Hospital, Citizens Advice Bureau and Riverside College.

2.3 The attendance was disappointing in that only 36 people participated. Paul Johnson from CSIP facilitated the event informing attendees of the background to LINKs and what LINKs is set to achieve. Group work was carried out to stimulate ideas around what the LINK can do and how it should do it. Debate was lively and productive.

2.4 All attendees are invited to a further meeting on 19th May 2008 if they are interested in becoming a LINK member. This meeting will set down operational guidelines and see the formation of the Interim LINK.

3. PROCUREMENT OF “HOST” ORGANISATION

3.1 The tender for the Host Organisation is being finalised. The tender specification was circulated to the LINK steering group on 4th April 2008 and comments were invited. The tender is expected to be published on the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) website and in the Evening Gazette during week commencing 21st April 2008. This will be an open tender process and the Host Organisation is expected to be in place by the end of September 2008.