

PFLAS
26 APR 2007

~~HEALTH~~ ~~LINKS~~
Funds for Ambulance Monitor

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Date: 25 April 2007

Dear Ms Box

Formation of LINKs-ring fencing of funds

Thank you for your letter dated 15 March 2007. Please accept my apologies for a delayed response to your request.

The Council has made provision within its strategic plans to involve public engagement in structuring future social and health care provision in the borough. This is done via our Value for Money commissioning programme.

This involves public consultation in various forms to inform the service delivery agenda. To date consultation with hard to reach service users and BME groups have been undertaken to identify user satisfaction, experience and involve local people to participate in the structuring of services that would be 'fit for purpose'.

In addition, resources are made available via our Local Area Agreement funds (LAA) in particular to set up Local Involvement Networks to facilitate involvement of local people to be active partners in structuring social and health care services rather than just being passive recipients.

We are committed as a local authority to empowering citizens to give them more confidence and more opportunities to influence public services in ways that are relevant and meaningful to them, and in ways that will make a real difference to services.

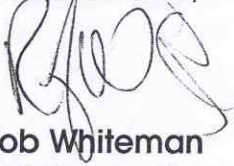
Keeping this in mind we have identified ways of engaging with the local community outside our Value for Money commissioning programme. This involves setting up Local Involvement Networks in partnership with local voluntary organisations to provide a platform and voice to local people to give their views on service requirements and experience within their areas

on all the social and health care services. This work will also build on the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) forums.

Based on our current position the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham do not feel it is necessary to ring fence funds for LINKs as the spirit of the programme is at the heart of every activity the council undertakes.

We look forward to receiving future guidance and support in establishing LINKs within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive

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Our aim is "together we will build communities and transform lives....."