

Wiltshire Council

Council

22 February 2011

Public Participation

**Question from Mr Phil Matthews, Wiltshire Involvement Network
To Councillor Jane Scott, Leader of the Council**

Question 1

The Wiltshire Involvement Networks(LINKS) is a Statutory Government organisation set up by Act of Parliament to represent patients and public in Wiltshire.

Why was the decision to recently suspend this organisation and its funding taken by Council Officers instead of the democratically elected Members of the Council?

Response

The Chief Executive has instigated a review of the process followed in connection with the investigation of a complaint arising from a meeting of Wiltshire Involvement Network (WIN) on 10 August 2010. This issue will be covered in that review. The outcome of the review will be reported to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Question 2

At a Healthwatch Stakeholders meeting held on Feb 8th 2011 , Earl Howe made it clear that good relationships were needed with Local Authorities and that conversations were needed with them with regards to the money that they have been provided with for LINKS. Therefore can I have an assurance that funding will be available to continue the work of the Wiltshire Involvement Network up an until Healthwatch is set up?

Response

The Director of Community Services has requested a meeting with the WIN to discuss various issues including the funding arrangements for next year. The Council is committed to funding the WIN through a Host organisation for 11/12 as there is progression to the establishment of Health Watch.