

Coventry LINK Steering Group Individual members

David Spurgeon	Since retiring as a head teacher, I have been involved as a volunteer in the health sector. Having served as a member of the previous Patient and Public Involvement initiative, the PPI Forum for the Coventry PCT, I have seen firsthand how such groups can make a difference. For the past year, as a member of the Coventry LINK Caretaker Steering Group, I have helped to establish the Host organisation and LINK itself. It is vital that LINK reaches out to different communities and gathers together local views. I see Coventry LINK as being a critical friend to the professionals, as well as ensuring that Coventry citizens get good value for money.
Tom Stone	[I was] chair of the PPI forum for University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire in its dying days. I've been involved since day one in setting up Coventry LINK as a member of the Interim Steering Group. I look forward to Coventry LINK as a strong well regarded organisation, completely independent of Coventry City Council and NHS trusts, which will make a real contribution to the health and care of Coventry citizens.
Alexander Turner	[I want to bring] my skills, abilities and experience to help the people who live in the city of Coventry. I have worked for the NHS (Coventry PCT - soon to be Coventry Community Health Service for the last 4 1/2 years. I have also worked in voluntary groups for a number of years.
Terence Doyle	[I have a lot of] experience to offer to the role: 1. Former member of the Health Scrutiny Board (Founder Member) 2. Member of the Older Peoples Partnership steering group 3. Member of Hope 2. 4. Member of Older People's reference group (working group) 5. Former member Coventry Community Health Council. This gives me a wide range of knowledge of the health scenario within Coventry.
George Keay	Following retirement from a scientific career I decided I would like to return something to society by way of voluntary work. Due to my previous involvement with people with sensory impairment I decided to offer my services in the Healthcare field. My first involvement was with Tile Hill Community patients group which was concerned with a new build project at Jardine Crescent to provide Primary Care Services in one of the most deprived areas of the City. I am the current Chair of this group. I then joined the Coventry PPI forum and stayed with it until its demise in 2008. I was also the chair of this group.
Gaile Allen	As a former member of the Hospital Trust PPI Forum I developed my interest in the NHS provision of services for the people of Coventry. In addition I was employed by Coventry Social Services for nearly forty years, retiring as a HR Manager, and have retained my lifelong interest in the way the City Council provides Social Care Support. It feels a natural progression to assist in ensuring that LINK develops its influence on such provision and is inclusive in involving all sections of the community and represents the widest possible views.
Andrew Christie	My interests lie within the health and well being of the citizens of Coventry in particular carers of Social Care users, in addition equality of opportunity for all. I possess the necessary experience, skills and ability to work with individuals in a group setting and establish professional relationships, access methods of social investigation, identify areas of social and professional development, relate findings, and creatively meet the aims and the objectives of the LINK Steering Group. I am aware of the importance of networking and the importance of developing and maintaining support networks.
Martin Smith	I believe that Coventry LINK is an exciting prospect of fine tuning the delivery of health care in Coventry to the needs of the people of Coventry. I am fully aware of the funding constraints upon public bodies and I am keen to help this limited fund deliver the best possible service for the requirements of Coventry citizens. I am very interested in community support and I am the vice secretary of the Henley Green Residents Association.

Christine Upton	<p>I'm a lady with learning disabilities and I have three grown up children. I attend college and I am a health buddy which means I help people to get fit and healthy.</p> <p>I wanted to get involved in LINK because I want to make good changes to services. I want to be the voice for people with learning disabilities because we get forgotten about.</p>
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Co-opted members: Voluntary and Community Groups

Age Concern Coventry Moira Pendlebury	Our central purpose and mission is to promote and enhance the well being and quality of life of all older people in the City; to help make later life a more fulfilling and enjoyable experience; to support people especially at those points in life when the right help can make a significant difference. We provide a wide range of services to around 14,000 older people (over 50) a year.
Coventry Somali Community Network Abdi Ibrahim	Our organisation works with refugees and migrants, in particular with those of Somali ethnicity and of other similar background. We organise health events to educate and raise awareness and help to raise the employability through training and education and by offering extra classes for children and young people with under achievement.
Coventry AIMHS Sheila Marston	AIMHS is a user led mental health service helping people who have accessed mental health services in Coventry to be involved in the way service are planned and delivered.
Grapevine (Coventry & Warwickshire) Ltd Manjeet Stone	Grapevine's purpose is to reduce the isolation and segregation experienced by people with learning disabilities and their families. We help them live life their way and to experience all the benefits that flow from richer and wider relationships: genuine safety, affection and growth.

Representative from the Voluntary Action Coventry Board

Asian Blind Association Bhanu Dabhi	We are a network of blind and partially sighted Asian people living in and around the Coventry area. We provide information, advice, emotional support, counselling for blind and partially sighted people and their carers. We also help members apply for benefits and other statutory rights.
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