



Warrington LINK Register of Interests Policy

Warrington LINK – Warrington Local Involvement Network
BHA – Black Health Agency LINK Support

Warrington LINK and other LINKs throughout England have been set up because changes in the way the NHS is structured and the increasing integration of health and social care mean that new ways of involving people are needed. These changes also mean potential conflicts of interest may arise. It is recognised for example that groups or businesses that provide care services may want to join Warrington LINK to influence health and social care as a whole.

It is very important that LINK members, who hold public office, act and are seen to act in line with appropriate standards, as described in the ‘seven principles’

We would strongly recommend that Warrington LINK Members declare any information appropriate for inclusion on a Register of Interests.

Members should not use their membership to gain media or public attention for their own personal, business or political interest.

Members **must declare** any financial interests that could affect any issues that the LINK is considering.

We **recommend** that members also declare a personal or political interest that could put them at risk of being accused of bias if they did not declare it.

If an item arises during a meeting where a members may have a conflict of interest they should declare it and withdraw from the decision making process. If the conflict of interest comes up at other times (for example correspondence), the member should make sure that he or she is not involved in any decision making.

A register of interests will be kept and updated by BHA Warrington LINK support team.

This is to assure the public that Warrington LINK responsibilities are carried out in an impartial and transparent way.

Failure to declare conflicts of interest is a breach of the Warrington LINK Member Code of Conduct.

Knowing a Register exists together with this policy, will assure the public and our members that we do not take decisions in a way which furthers our own interests and that our responsibilities are carried out clearly and honestly.

What is an interest?

This is a key question. The criteria is not whether the member thinks they have an interest to declare but whether another LINK member, BHA or a member of the public would think they have an interest to declare.

An example of a declarable interest would be one which was of financial benefit, such as a member deciding about care services which they, or a group to which they belong, provide. It would also be knowledge of, or an interest in, another person, such as friends or family members.



Ask yourself these questions:

- Will it affect me financially in any way? As a LINK member you are entitled to out of pocket expense e.g. travel or materials costs. Reimbursement for time or expertise would be considered as payment and must be declared as a conflict of interest.
- Does it affect my employer or my employment?
- Does it affect a group in which I have an interest?
- Does it affect a close colleague, friend or relative?
- Members should not use their membership to gain media or public attention for their own personal, business or political interests.
- Members should declare a personal or political interest that could put them at risk of being accused of bias. (A register of interests will be kept)
- If an issue arises which a member has a conflict of interest, then that member should not be involved in any decision making on how to settle the issue.

If in doubt raise it with BHA. If they advise you to withdraw from the decision making process then you should do so.

Remember!

Declare any conflict of interest that might be considered to influence your actions as a LINK member as soon as it arises to BHA who will offer advice and will keep the Register of Interests up to date.



Warrington LINK Register of Declared Interests 2008

Period Covered: September 2008 – September 2009

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Role in Organisation:

1. Business/ Organisational – including charity trustees or governorships

2. Financial

3. Political



4. Membership – including membership of professional or external bodies, trade or other associations

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5. Personal – including specific close family interest.

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I confirm that the above declaration is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature..... Date.....

Registers of Interests will be kept by the Host Organisation and a member should notify the Host if his or her interest change and amendments to the register are necessary.