



## **A Code of Conduct for Membership to the Warrington LINK**

**Warrington LINK** – Warrington Local Involvement Network

**BHA** – Black Health Agency

BHA would like to thank you for volunteering as a member of the Warrington LINK.

This Code of Conduct sets out what you can expect from BHA and what is expected of you as a Warrington LINK member. Membership allows all Warrington residents and voluntary and community groups in Warrington to become part of the Warrington LINK and for those who are particularly interested in the strategic work of the LINK to be nominated to sit on the LINKs Core Group.

Compliance to this Code of Conduct is a condition of membership to the Warrington LINK.

If required available to you will be copies of:

- Complaints Procedure
- Governance Framework
- Register of Interest

All LINK members should as a minimum requirement adhere to the **Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life**, which are set out below.

### Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

### Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties

### Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

### Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office

### Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they should take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands



## Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest

## Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

It is likely that you will want to be involved in different ways at different times in the LINK. You may want to have a permanent membership, interested in everything that the Warrington LINK undertakes or become active only when particular issues important to you or your group/organisation arise. You may only wish to receive a newsletter so that you feel informed and involved. It's up to you how and when you get involved. The following provides some general codes of conduct which may only be applicable dependent on your current level of involvement.

- commit to playing an active role in the Warrington LINK, contributing to meetings and being involved with working groups and other projects
- listen to and respect the views and experiences of other Warrington LINK members, and support fellow members to contribute to the work of the LINK
- present and promote other relevant views, which may not always be the same as my own
- seek out and listen to the views of patients, carers and the public, especially those individuals and groups whose voices are not usually heard
- raise issues for consideration by the Warrington LINK which are based on evidence from patients or the public which demonstrate this is a matter of wider concern
- act and conduct myself in a reasonable and responsible way to any staff or volunteers or members of the public I work with or meet as a member of the Warrington LINK
- never disclose confidential and sensitive information unless there is a legal duty to do so for example in the interests of patient safety
- declare any conflict of interest, or anything that might be seen by other people as a conflict of interest, as soon as it arises to BHA who will keep the Register of Interests up to date
- not accept gifts or hospitality which could be seen as trying to influence the decisions, independence or activities of the Warrington LINK
- comply with relevant legislation including equal opportunities, discrimination, human rights, data protection and freedom of information
- treat all people with respect and act in a way which does not discriminate against or exclude anyone
- not work against the majority view of the Warrington LINK once a decision has been democratically taken, but you may request that your viewpoint, if it differs, is recorded in the minutes
- only carry out work and undertake visits in line with the action plan and protocols agreed by the Warrington LINK



- have the general agreement of the Warrington LINK before speaking, writing or attending meetings on behalf of the LINK
- ensure that when you are representing the Warrington LINK at a meeting or event, that you are speaking on behalf of the membership and not yourself
- report back to other members of the Warrington LINK when you attend anything on the LINKs behalf

Black Health Agency, the support organisation for the Warrington LINK will seek to provide you with help and assistance including:

- help to carry out your work with the Warrington LINK
- provide appropriate materials to carry out your Warrington LINK activities
- advise and support you in dealing with any difficulties you are having and provide guidance with situations that are new to you
- provide correct and up to date information, sent in an agreed way and format (such as email or post)
- hold meetings or events at an accessible venue at an appropriate and convenient time as requested by members of the Warrington LINK
- provide appropriate ID, training and CRB Checks for those members appointed by the LINK core group for the purposes of entering and viewing premises in accordance with the Local Involvement Network Regulations 2008
- Engaging with people and organisations in recruiting members
- Communicating the ongoing LINK activities and outcomes to the wider community and statutory organisations and commissioners
- Keep the LINK informed and health and social care news, consultations and events