



WILTSHIRE INVOLVEMENT NETWORK

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The Wiltshire Involvement Network and other LINKs throughout England have been set up to allow local people, Groups and organisations to have a say in how their health and social care services are planned and run.

There has been a long tradition of patient and public involvement in health services but the LINK was an acknowledgement of the increasing integration of health and social care. These changes also mean potential conflicts of interest may arise. It is recognised that groups or organisations who provide health and social care services may also want to join WIN to influence service delivery.

Wiltshire Involvement Network Members must declare any information appropriate for inclusion that may constitute a conflict of interest; this information will be included in a 'register of interests' to be held by the Host Organisation.

These include:

- 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 interest(s) that could affect any issues that the WIN is considering.
- Members must 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 member 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 by the Host organisation Wiltshire and Swindon Users Network. This is to assure the public that the WIN responsibilities are carried out in an impartial and transparent way.
- Failure to declare conflict of interest is a breach of the WIN 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 criterion is not whether the member thinks they have an interest to declare but whether another WIN member, local organisation or group, or member of the public would think they have an interest to declare. It might help if you ask yourself the following questions;

- Will it affect me financially in any way?
- 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?
- Will it gain me media or public attention for my own personal, business or political interests?
- Could it put me at risk of being accused of bias?

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

Remember! Declare any conflict of interest that might influence your actions as a WIN member as soon as it arises.