



November 2012 Health Conference Feedback

Rural Services Network

27 people responded to the survey asking for feedback on the Rural Health Conference held in November 2012.

Responses are as follows:

1. Are you a commissioner or provider organisation?

Commissioner – 11%

Provider – 44%

Both – 11%

Vol Sector 4%

Local Authority – 4%

Other 4%

Neither – 22%

2. Do you wish to continue to be associated with the Rural Health Network?

Yes – 96%

No – 4%

3. Had you heard about our plans to establish the Rural Health Network prior to the conference?

Yes – 15%

No – 85%

4. Did you attend the launch conference at Nottingham on 28 November 2012?

Yes – 78%

No – 22%

4.a - If yes, what was your overall impression of the conference?

100% of those that attended had a positive impression of the conference

Other comments included:

“Sadly was unable to attend but think the issues are very important”

“I have heard good reports but the market is being swamped by conferences”

“A bit too focussed on events in Nottinghamshire, but that was understandable.”

“It was an excellent event, very informative”

“It was good to meet up with people with a shared interest in the provision of mental health services in rural areas”

5. Are you aware that rural communities usually pay more but receive less in public services than their urban counterparts?

Yes – 93%

No – 7%

6. Do you concur with this assertion?

Yes – 81%

No – 19%

Those that responded “No” to this assertion, included the following comments:

“Actual costs greater for more difficult provision of breadth of services”

“Rural people are often very poor. Sometimes they have property but little disposable income. Urban people assume that those who live in the country are “well to do” but this is only sometimes true.”

7. Are you aware that the DoH currently makes no allowance for population sparsity in its resource allocation formulae for assessing the relative needs of different communities and allocating funding?

Yes – 70%

No - 30%

The Rural Health Network has been established to enable the easy exchange of ideas, thoughts, views, professional inter-actions and best practice amongst rural health professionals across England and Wales. It will facilitate internet discussions and occasional professional meetings alongside an annual conference. The product of these discussions will be routinely fed in to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services .

8. Do you support these overall objectives?

100% of those that responses supported these objectives.

In addition the following observations were made:

- Would it be helpful to use the group to influence policy making and aim to rural proof policy making
- As a Voluntary sector group we have services which help the Health Agenda but we are not health professionals.
- We need to provide hard facts to DoH rather than words
- Should the objective be, that by feeding into the APPG on Rural Services the network will aim to influence the outcomes and ensure our views are not only heard but acted upon.
- Would like to see funding sources as a specific item
- Clearly my organisation, the dispensing doctors' association would like some degree of focus on the problems in rural general practice and the problems around funding for the GP contract.
- The focus should be slightly broader than just rural health professionals. I do not work in a health related field but my work on transport is fundamental for rural residents to access healthcare services.
- Supporting the ethos of having regard to rural concerns in policy, please ensure that the professional meetings and annual conference actually take place in areas generally avoided - ie. High Peak!
- Importance of internet in galvanising rural health professionals.
- Please put high on your list of topics for discussion the need to develop Virtual Library facilities especially Library based "information services" in rural areas

9. Do you want to suggest any other objectives for the network to pursue?

- The LINK will cease to exist on 31st March 2013 and I will be leaving the company but I think it would be a really good idea to engage Local Healthwatch in your work as rural areas are definitely not engaged with and consulted enough.
- Should have a library of good and innovative practice
- Collation of issues and costs
- To help the general public understand the health issues facing those in rural areas through a strong, targeted publicity campaign. It's all well and good encouraging exchange of ideas etc between the various network members but if the public don't know about the ideas/issues then they can't bring pressure to bear on those who hold the purse strings and make the policy in this area.
- Lobbying for better and more transparent and responsive funding mechanism to address rural health services and issues
- The planning and commissioning of rural health care services
- That the Network lobby and provide advocacy for the voice of rural communities.

- I hope that the Forestry Commission Social Science Research Dept. can become fully involved with appropriate research when supported by the Rural Health Network.

10. What specific topics or professional areas of focus would you find particularly useful for the Network to address?

Delivery of remote services through the use of IT and the building of public capability to access these services	Transport for health is critical. Making CCGs aware of what the vol sector can offer in terms of prevention and community based transport	Social isolation that many older people in rural areas experience - how to work together with the statutory bodies to develop strong community led services to help alleviate this and its consequent health problems.	Transport needs particularly for elderly Centralisation of health resources to save money at expense of ease of access etc for those in rural areas
Public Health in 2 tier areas	Cost of provision	The role of District Councils in delivering the Health Agenda.	Access to health care, social care
eHealth	Accessibility	Access to medicines	Use of modern telecommunications
User empowerment	Breadth	Mental Health	Health care self management
Dementia	Methodology to make a case for rural services	Sustainability of district general hospitals	

11. Please indicate how you would rank in terms of importance (with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important), the following initial suggestions in relation to the question above.

- 1 - Resource Profiling of health services for elderly populations
- 2 - Rural proofing
- 3 - Community transport – equity of access
- 4 - Mental Health –dealing with long term conditions
- 5 - Exploiting Rural Broadband opportunities

12. Would your organisation be willing to consider becoming a “Founder Member” of the Rural Health Network for a one off subscription of £950?

Yes – 0

No – 100%

13. Would your organisation be willing to consider becoming an ordinary member of the Rural Health Network for an annual subscription of £150?

Yes – 44% - 12 responses

No - 30% - 8 responses

No Answer - 26% 7 responses

14. Do you have any other suggestions for generating revenue to set up and sustain the Network?

- social impact bonds
- For the above answers, LINK can't commit to this but Healthwatch Nottinghamshire might be able to as of 1st April 2013.
- Lone organisation no income just goo will available
- You are only going to get revenue if you can show there will be a return as with fairer funding
- With regards to Q14, we would be willing to consider becoming an ordinary member if there was a reduced rate for the voluntary/charity sector. Like many organisations in the voluntary sector, we are having to watch everything we spend and £150 is hard to justify.
- You would need to talk to ELDC regarding subscriptions.
- Pharmaceutical Company sponsorship for education projects.
- I will refer the £950 fee to RPS Officers for approval
- I don't know if my organisation would be prepared to fund. Sponsorship? advertising on website?
- Not within the timeframe of responding to this survey, but I think its worth co-ordinating a separate brainstorm on the issue as clearly the Network needs funding to support its activities.
- I've put no to 13 & 14 because I actually don't know, I will have to find out.
- Recruit John Rogers the author of "People Money" to be a contributor to this aspect of development.
- Do not know the answer to above questions

15. Do you wish to be kept informed of developments and the programme for this second conference?

Yes 92%

No 8%