

Learning Disability County Carers' Forum

Date: 20 November 2007

Present	Anne Brand (chair), Carolyn Elliott, Sue Mears, Jackie Milan, Brenda Ridout, Linda Stapleton, Michael Holes, Maxine Holes, Jacqueline Edwards, Peter Edwards, Alan Kerswell, Bronwyn Nott, Rosemary Huxtable, Christine Price, Elaine James, Barbara Minshull, Barry Minshull, Joan Goddard, Dinny Cope, Pauline Teatheron, Brigid McEleney-Smith, Tracey Adams, Gillian Hewlett, Bill Smith, Maurice Clark, Ann Bell, Hilary Allen (minutes)	
Apologies:	Suzanne Lovelace, Mrs Fiske, Sheila Pearcey, Irene Newcombe	
Visitors	Clare Cox, Janet Regan, Gary Kent (DOVE)	
Item	Narrative	Action
Welcome and Minutes of last meeting	<p>Anne Brand welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>Carolyn Elliott will send answers to the questions about social enterprise for inclusion in the minutes of this meeting.</p> <p>Some people said they had not received all the papers from the last meeting.</p>	<p><i>Carolyn to send answers to Hilary</i></p> <p><i>Hilary to send out again, but not all papers available electronically.</i></p>
Housing and Supported Living Janet Regan Gary Kent (DOVE)	<p>Janet Regan explained the Housing Strategy. Devon has a high number of clients still in residential care compared to the rest of the country, but this is partly due to the number of long stay hospitals situated in Devon. The aim of the strategy is to give clients choice about where they live. Now there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More choice of accommodation including shared ownership • Assistive technology to help people live more independently • Training in independent living skills – this has been piloted very successfully in Teignbridge. • E-tendering process for providers who have signed up to it. Now a variety of providers can be invited to tender for providing a support package. <p>There are also some blocks to progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is needed to gain the confidence of carers around supported living and more independence for their cared-for people • A lead housing officer is needed to facilitate work with the local authority <p>Gary Kent told the meeting that he has been living and working with people with a learning disability since childhood. Housing is all about giving people the choice of where and with whom they would like to live. He invited carers to tell him what they would like, either within the meeting</p>	<p><i>Carers are invited to contact Gary Kent on 07831 119904 or email garykent@thedoveproject.co.uk</i></p>

	<p>or by phone or email. He would be happy to arrange visits, provide more information and discuss issues.</p> <p>Carers expressed concern over the difference between residential care, which is regulated, and supported living, which is not. Clients can become lonely and isolated if work is not done on establishing a circle of friends.</p> <p>Carers feel that they should be involved in writing contracts – Carolyn said that work is in progress with Supporting People and that they want to involve carers in this.</p>	
<p>Mental Capacity Act</p> <p>Clare Cox</p>	<p>Accommodation – Clare explained that the MCA gives a process for people who lack capacity which must be followed. Processes exist for assessment and best interest. The decision maker is the person who is proposing or taking action – but this cannot be a stand alone decision, it must involve family and others.</p> <p>Court of Protection – a new Court of Protection started in October 2007. This resolves disputes and appeals.</p> <p>Office of Public Guardian – the Public Guardian is Richard Brook. The Office holds a register of people with Lasting Power of Attorney so that people can be checked and supervised.</p> <p>Clare advised carers to look at the Office of Public Guardian website for detailed information.</p> <p>Deputy – this replaces the Receiver appointed by the Court of Protection for someone who lacks capacity and has 2 roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property and Finance • Personal Welfare (health etc) <p>Where possible the Deputy should be a family member or friend, but as a last resort the Local Authority could take on the role but at present only for Property and Finance. Work is being done with health partners in order to cover both roles.</p> <p>Anyone with Lasting Power of Attorney or appointed as a Deputy must refer and adhere to the Code of Practice.</p>	<p>www.publicguardiangov.uk 0845 330 2900</p>
<p>Update on Action Plan</p> <p>Carolyn Elliott</p>	<p>Carolyn apologised for being unable to attend the last meeting and will make sure that someone attends in her place should this happen again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment process – these are being changed at the moment because the local authority and the PCT are working to produce a joint assessment process. This does provide an opportunity to change some of the current LD processes, including involving carers more in the assessment process. • Information on LD is being collected, eg how many people, how is the money spent etc. A 	<p><i>Hilary to invite Liz Wood to next CCF to update carers on the latest assessment process.</i></p>

<p>Update on Task Group Linda Stapleton</p>	<p>set of information is being produced for carers so that carers can help towards designing the service for the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of people with LD will increase because advances in medical science means more babies survive and people will live longer, often with complex needs. • Person Centred Planning – Kathi Connick is working with Carolyn to work out how much it will cost to do a PCP with every client. Carolyn is talking to the PCT about helping to fund independent people to do the Person Centred Plans with clients. Once done, PCPs must lead somewhere, so there needs to be a support plan. • Expert carers – Carolyn would like a list of carers who are prepared for her to consult them on particular issues at short notice – a system which works well in Children’s Services. She already has one volunteer from East Devon but would like more. • Work as a result of Cornwall Report – Carolyn and Janet Regan will be meeting with CSCI to find a way of incorporating a set of standards into supported living contracts. It is not just a question of regulation but also of effective monitoring. Gary Kent said that he is trying to set up a Provider Forum so that providers can share good practice. <p>People asked some questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dinny asked if carers could be involved in monitoring. <i>Carolyn replied that they can be involved and that an expert carers’ list would be helpful for this.</i> 2. Alan Kerswell asked how many people with LD are receiving a service. <i>Carolyn replied that there are slightly over 2000 clients with eligible needs. The local authority is set targets by government inspectors and one of the Performance Indicators is the number of people in residential care. As Devon has a high number, CSCI are looking for plans to reduce these numbers. Of the 850 people in residential care it is very likely that some of those do not need or want it. Modernisation is about giving people informed choice.</i> <p>Linda reported that the Task Group had met immediately after the last CCF meeting and would continue to meet after each meeting. The Action Plan which Carolyn has drawn up for North Devon can be extended to cover the whole of Devon but can include local issues. The Task Group will take on the task of monitoring the action plan on behalf of the County Carers’ Forum.</p> <p>PALS will deal with individual concerns and will also pick up trends if they become apparent.</p>	<p><i>Carolyn Elliott and Linda Stapleton to discuss and set up a system</i></p> <p><i>Bring back to CCF when more information is available.</i></p> <p><i>Carolyn invited any carers with specific issues to concern to write to her.</i></p> <p><i>Task Group to meet after each CCF Report on one objective at each CCF</i> <i>Include local issues</i></p> <p><i>Hilary to send out Linda’s report with minutes</i></p>
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Any other business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mencap Conference 'What are we educating our children for?' 14 December, Peter Chalke Centre, Exeter University – Anne Brand encouraged carers to attend this. Issues that come out of it will be taken to national government. 2. KIN – the recent issue was highly praised and seemed to have been circulated wider. Carers asked how the distribution could be extended further. KIN is available on the www.learningdisabilitydevon.org.uk website and people can also subscribe through the website to be notified as soon as the next issue is available. 3. Teignbridge LD Carers meeting – carers reported that the meeting scheduled for 4 December has been cancelled. 4. Reduction in funding – carers requested actual figures. Carolyn said that the deficit had been addressed by doing things differently but without having to cut services. She suggested that Ian Lancaster be invited to the next meeting to talk about finance. 5. Sue Mears said that she now feels carers are much more involved and that a lot of progress has been made. She would like carers and staff to pull together to achieve further progress. 	<p><i>Email stella.hewitt@nhs.net with ideas for content and distribution.</i></p> <p><i>Hilary to invite Ian Lancaster to next CCF meeting</i></p>
Dates of future meetings	<p>Tuesday 29 January 2008 – Isca Centre</p> <p>Monday 31 March 2008 – Isca Centre</p>	
<p><i>The notes from this meeting will go onto the internet on 21 December 2007 to view. These notes may include the names of attendees and their comments. Please contact Hilary Allen on 01392 208639 if you have any concerns about your name appearing in the notes or on the website. www.carersindevon.org.uk www.learningdisabilitydevon.org.uk</i></p>		

**LDPB County Carers Forum Meeting
20th November 2007**

items to be reported by Linda Stapleton

1. Carers involvement - pilot in North and Mid Devon

Action taken since the last LDPB County Carers Forum Meeting:

- Meeting held between :
 - LD Locality Operational Manager North and Mid Devon,
 - Generic Carer Link Project workers for both North and Mid Devon,
 - Carer
 - Representative from provider organisation (Torridge Voluntary Service)
 - PPI Manager, DPT
- Purpose of the meeting:
 - To finalise arrangements for supporting the pilot project to strengthen the involvement of carers in North and Mid Devon as discussed at the last County Carers Forum meeting.
- First step will be recruiting a participation worker for the length of the pilot.
- The people listed above will form the basis of a monitoring group, the intention will be to widen monitoring to carers and support workers across the county.
- Progress will be reported through the Carers Locality Management Group, the LD County Carers Forum and to carers in general through the Family Carers Group, local Carers Link Newsletter and KIN etc.
- Details regarding the length of the project are being finalised in readiness for proceeding.

2. Task Group to discuss Action Plan

- Following a number of queries raised at the last LDPB County Carers Forum, it was agreed to convene a task group to further consider these.
- Task Group consisted of Barbara Wilson, Sue Mears, Dinny Cope, Carer Support Workers, LD Strategic Lead for Carer Involvement and Devon Partnership Trust PPI Manager.
- It was planned to organise an audio conference to further consider issues raised.
- Initial discussions made it clear that the subject could not meaningfully be progressed through an audio conference, so e-mail and telephone exchange took place with members of the Task Group.
- Discussion focussed on:
 - Whether the progress report made sense to each member of the Task Group, if not why not;
 - Was there anything that people wanted to see on future progress reports - if so what.
 - Was there any issue in localities that did not fit into the sections of the Action Plan - if so what.

As a result of discussions, the Task Group recommends:

- **The Action Plan be kept in the format of an Action Plan rather than a progress report, e.g. so that the following columns are retained:**
 - Objectives

- *Tasks* required to achieve the objective
- *Who* is responsible for task
- *Date* by which task should be achieved
- *Progress* achieved (by each LDPB County Carers Forum meeting)
- **The Action Plan be placed on the Web site** - available to carers on request from the local carer support worker, through the local library, or directly for those who can access on line - but it would not automatically be distributed to each LDPB County Carers Forum meeting.
- **One, or two specific objectives are reported on *in detail* at each LDPB County Carers Forum. Those objectives to be reported on agreed previously by Carers.** Each 'objective' reported on would include (within the briefing) the objectives and tasks from the Action Plan, so that carers could link the specific briefing to the original Action Plan. Although carers would not automatically be provided with the full Action Plan progress report, the Action Plan would be updated in readiness for each LDPB County Carers meeting. Meetings would provide a focus to expect progress to be made and reported on.
- **The Action Plan to include reference to the locality or statutory organisation that asked for the particular objective to be included in the Action Plan.** This would help carers identify their local issues and how they were being progressed as well as the originator of the objective.
- **The existing Task Group, detailed above, (with any additional carers who wish to be involved) have offered to:**
 - *Meet directly after each LD County Carers Forum meeting for 1 hour or so.*
 - *Consider which objective from the Action Plan should be reported on at the next LD County Carers Forum meeting.*
 - *Contact Hilary Allen/June Wilkins to ask that a report on progress be provided at the next LD County Carers Forum on the specific objectives chosen.*
 - *Consider any other matter arising from the LD County Carers Forum meeting.*
- **There were some additional objectives that people felt should be added to the Action Plan, for instance:**
 - ***Ensuring effective assessment and review process*** - *this relates to the new assessment process - this needs to be added to the relevant section.*
 - ***Maintaining healthy living programmes*** - *this relates to the emphasis that needs to be placed on healthy eating, diet, exercise and weight control. There is no specific objective included in the Action Plan.*

19th November 2007

Notes by Linda Stapleton

PPI Manager, Devon Partnership NHS Trust

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