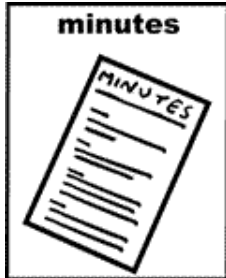





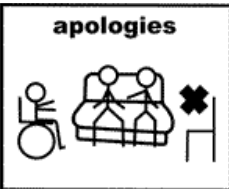
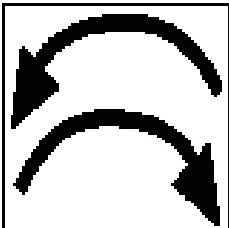

Devon's Learning Disability Partnership Board







24 November 2006

Loop Centre, Exeter



Minutes

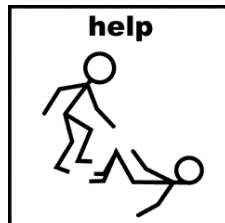
  	<p>Introduction and welcome</p> <p>Dr Phil Norrey introduced himself and said he was very pleased to be the Chairman and that Robert Hawken has been elected Co-chair.</p> <p>He welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Some people had not been able to come on the day – Des Hutchins, Councillor Saxon Spence, Dinny Cope, Jan Dean, Lorraine Pearce and Sue Foxtan-Price.</p> <p>Everyone had a list of people at the meeting.</p> <p>Carolyn Elliott explained the management changes that had happened this year and said that soon a paper showing all the changes would be prepared, when all the new people have started.</p>
	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Phil Norrey talked about the minutes of the last meeting, held in October 2005. If there was anything people wanted to talk about there would be time later in the meeting.</p>

 <p>drama</p> 	<h3>Billy Yappa Show</h3> <p>Robert Hawken (Co-chair) introduced the performance by the Get Changed Theatre Company. This is about people choosing how they want to spend their lives and where they want to live. This is called Person Centred Planning.</p> <p>Some people asked questions about how plans are done in Devon. Michael Lloyd said that work is still being done on this and there is money to make Person Centred Planning happen all round Devon.</p>
 <p>write down</p> 	<h3>Annual Report</h3> <p>Robert Hawken spoke about the Annual Report which shows how 'Valuing People' is working in Devon. Carolyn explained that the Report includes information about each 'Valuing People' objective. When people have had a chance to read the Report she will answer any questions by letter or email.</p> <p>Mary Dart asked if self-directed support could be included in the report in future.</p> <p>Action: section for Self-directed Support to be included in Annual Report in future.</p>
 <p>minutes</p> 	<h3>Minutes of last meeting</h3> <p>Questions people asked about the minutes of the meeting on 27 October 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Brand asked what could be done about college courses stopping and there not being enough jobs for people. This means there are fewer choices for people. <i>Phil Norrey said that Devon County Council are worried about this as well.</i> <p>Action: <i>Phil Norrey has written to Rob Greig about this but has not had a reply yet.</i></p>

- Anne Brand said that Connexions also have problems because it depends what support people get as to what courses can be accessed for them.
Action: *Phil Norrey said that he would talk about this at the management board of Connexions.*
- Robert Hawken said that he had been on a course that had been stopped. Exeter Expressions wrote to Exeter College and Ben Bradshaw MP. The replies were not accessible and Exeter Expressions will write again.
- Anne Brand said that the Partnership Board needs to think about people with higher support needs. *Carolyn said that this was on the agenda for this meeting.*
- Mary Dart suggested finding out what difficulties people are having with changes and how they solve problems.
Action: *Carolyn Elliott and Mary Dart to discuss and put forward recommendations to the Partnership Board Action Group.*

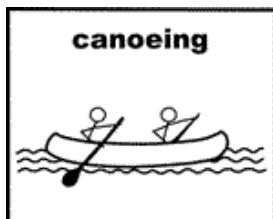


Fulfilling Lives report – what are we doing to help people with higher support needs?



Michael Lloyd talked about what is being done for people with higher support needs who might have:

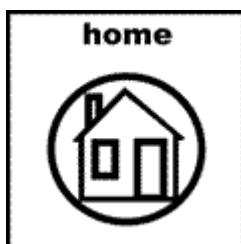
- Severe or profound disabilities
- Epilepsy
- Autism and learning disability
- Challenging behaviour
- Conditions of old age such as dementia



Glenn Walpole, Helen Babb and June Moran (Fulfilling Lives Managers) talked about what they have been able to offer people with higher support needs. For example, some have been able to go abseiling, someone was able to go diving and some have been canoeing.



Ian Weller (Speech and Language Therapist) and Patrick Woodman (Occupational Therapist) talked about and showed a video of examples of 'assistive technology' – special switches and equipment that people with a disability can manage.



Money is available to provide this equipment, particularly in supported living to help more people move into their own homes.

George Link (Accommodation and Support Officer) then talked about the different places people could choose to live.



People asked some questions.

- Wendy Gardner (National Mencap) asked whether toilet facilities for severely disabled people would be provided in the new Princesshay development in Exeter. The new shopping area in Plymouth includes some very good facilities.

Action: *Phil Norrey said that he would ask the Chief Executive of Exeter City Council about this.*

- Anne Brand asked if staff are aware that they can borrow equipment and toys from Honeylands, including the special switches. *People thanked Anne for this information.*



Carolyn then read out information given by People First. They will apply for a grant from BILD (British Institute for Learning Disabilities) for money to support people so that they can take part in meetings, Person Centred Planning, support for employment, support in college. This would be for people aged 18-25. The application has to be sent in December and People First will know by the New Year whether they will have the money.

People First are asking anyone who can to give advice and guidance in how to put in the bid for money.



Supporting Carers

June Wilkins (Carers' Development Worker) told everyone about the different things they would hear about.

Carers Rosemary Huxtable and Sue Mears told everyone that they are disappointed that they have not been properly involved in deciding changes. Some of the buildings that will be used for the Community Hubs are taking a long time to get ready or are not really suitable. This has meant gaps in services which is not good for the service users.

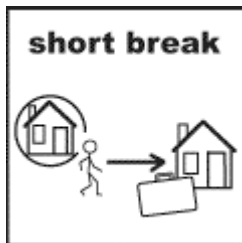


Carolyn Elliott thanked Rosemary and Sue for their comments.

Action: Carolyn Elliott will ensure that there is Carer involvement in service strategies for the future.

Robert Wynne (Magic Carpet) showed an animation film called 'Making Plans' which has been made by Carers. It shows things that worry Carers and Service Users.

Gene Alford, who helped make the film, said she had really enjoyed making it. She talked about the problems of being a carer of someone with a learning disability and how she has had to keep fighting to get the right services.



Steve Robinson talked about the new Short Breaks service. This offers Carers the chance of a break during the day as well as overnight and is much more flexible.

He invited anyone who is interested in Short Breaks to come to a meeting to make a plan about this.

Action: Steve to organise this.



June Wilkins showed a video called 'Real Lives' in which Carers (including a young carer) talk about their lives.

Carers find it hard to get support and sometimes don't know what to ask for or what support they could have.



Carers who could not come to the meeting had sent some questions.

Q Mid Devon – why have evening activities stopped?

A *Glenn Walpole - There had been problems with regular activities such as bowling, but these are about to start up again with new staff.*

Q Mid Devon – what is happening about Self Directed Support?

A *Liz Wood – the first thing to do is check if people understand what Self Directed Support is. There is a list of services and people say what they need, then they are given money to spend on this. This will start on 1 December for new people referred to the service. Carolyn Elliott will be talking to Sam Newman about all the details of this. Self Directed Support will be inspected by CSCI (Council for Social Care Inspection). Mary Dart said that Learning and Development will be working on training people, including Carers, in all aspects of Self Directed Support. Bob Nisbet said that the Mencap website has lots of information about this.*

Q Mid Devon Carers have questions and concerns about Direct Payments. Where can they go for answers?

A *Duncan Hepburn said that he will put the Mid Devon Learning Disabilities Carers Worker in touch with the Independent Living Adviser, who will be able to answer their questions.*

Q What happens about monitoring day services for people in residential care?

A *Michael Lloyd replied that residential homes are independently inspected by CSCI (Council for Social Care Inspection). Residents and their families should contact CSCI if they are not happy with anything to do with the home, including daytime activities.*

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Any else we need to talk about

Carolyn Elliott asked if there were any questions about anything else.

- Luke Eveleigh (SURF) said that when homes close it means there is less choice for service users.

Carolyn Elliott thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.