

Learning Disability County Carers' Forum

Date: 29 January 2008

Present	Anne Brand (chair), Carolyn Elliott, June Wilkins, Sue Mears, Linda Stapleton, Brigid McEleney-Smith, Pauline Teatherton, Bill Smith, Jacqueline and Peter Edwards, Julia Blood, Jackie Milan, Barbara Wilson, Dinny Cope, Barry and Barbara Minshall, John Taverner, Barbara Paul, Bronwyn Nott, Brenda Ridout, Tracey Adams, Rosemary Huxtable, Maurice Clarke, Alan Kerswell	
Apologies:	Suzanne Lovelace, Elaine James, Ann Bell, Irena Newcombe, Miriam Guard, Jeanette Kemlo	
Visitor:	Ian Lancaster – Consultant Programme Manager	
Item	Narrative	Action
Welcome and notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Brand welcomed all to the meeting. Members of staff introduced themselves. Anne thanked the Carers' Support Workers for organising the very enjoyable Christmas meals. Unfortunately, Debi Brooks, SWAPS Short Breaks Co-ordinator, has been taken ill and is therefore unable to attend the Forum as arranged. The space on the agenda will therefore be used to discuss the Carers' Forum bank account and the Staff Development Day on 20 March. Questions – Carolyn said that she will try to answer questions from carers and asked for questions to be submitted either during AOB, on post it notes, or via KIN. Answers to the questions will be published in KIN. Questions for Partnership Board should be focussed on the topics being discussed. Carolyn asked the carers representatives on Partnership Board (Anne Brand, Dinny Cope, Sue Mears and Barbara Wilson) to take questions from the Forum to the PB. Bronwyn Nott told people that the editor of the Express and Echo had asked to shadow a carer and would be visiting her and her daughter. 	<p>Send questions to june.wilkins@devon.gov.uk or stella.hewett@nhs.net</p>
Minutes and matters arising	<p>The minutes were agreed and signed with 2 amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P1 referring to long stay hospitals should read 'the number of long stay hospitals that were situated in Devon'. Barbara Wilson's name had been omitted from those attending. <p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P2 is there any progress from Supporting People on involving carers in the writing of contracts? Linda said that Supporting People are very keen to have a carers' representative who will report back to the County Carers' Forum. P3 has Gary Kent set up the Provider Forum yet? 	<p>Add to Action Plan</p> <p>Hilary to ask Gary Kent</p>

<p>Learning Disability Recovery Programme – Ian Lancaster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Carolyn Elliott for answering the questions on Social Enterprise. <p>Ian Lancaster spoke about the Learning Disability Recovery Plan the aim of which is to sort out the finances and achieve a balanced budget by 31 March 2008. To help with this, managers have been working on 5 projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning • Demand management • Supply management • Health • Workforce development <p>Ian explained by means of statistics and demographics that 71% of the LD budget is spent on residential care, which puts pressure on costs. This percentage is high compared with other local authorities and is an issue that CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection) has raised. The high percentage has largely been caused by the fact that Devon had a large number of long stay hospitals which closed. However, costs for residential care in Devon are actually lower than in some other local authority areas.</p> <p>Within Devon, there are varying costs between localities. Detailed work is needed to work out why this is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Access to Care Services – Devon funds substantial and critical needs. Other authorities may work differently. • CSCI is looking at the consistency of bandings between authorities. • Continuing Health Care (CHC) – there is now a toolkit to help decisions to be made as to who should be funded by health and this is now working more effectively. <p>A Commissioning Strategy is being written which will be informed by the above.</p> <p>People asked some questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers asked for assurance from the LD Partnership that this would not result in the closure of residential homes. <i>Carolyn replied that she would ask Janet Regan to answer this.</i> • How can the number of deaths be predicted, but not the number of young people coming through Transition? <i>Carolyn answered that LD now receive information on every child from the age of 14 who will need a service, However, funding does not come with them.</i> • How does all this affect families? <i>There is a legal duty to meet eligible needs.</i> • Barbara Wilson thanked Ian for his report and asked how projected growth is dealt with. <i>This will be included in the Commissioning Strategy. The Council now has confidence that LD can work to its budget.</i> 	
<p>County Carers' Forum bank account</p>	<p>June Wilkins explained that when the County Carers' Forum became a constituted group it received £6,000 from the Partnership Board of which about £4k is left. There are 2 options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The signatories can be changed (June has the paperwork) and the CCF can take charge of the money and use it to pay for their meetings. 	

	<p>2. The account can be closed and the money returned to the Partnership Board but ring fenced to run the CCF.</p> <p>June explained that this year, since the Forum was restarted, she has been paying for the meetings out of her budget, but cannot continue to do that. Each meeting costs about £300 for the venue and refreshments, which adds up to about £1,800 a year if 6 meetings are held.</p> <p>Discussion followed and Dinny suggested that, as the money was originally intended to fund pieces of work rather than paying for meetings, a donation should be made to Exeter Mencap towards their conference. However, Anne Brand, on behalf of Exeter Mencap, said that such a donation is not really necessary and declined it.</p> <p>If the Forum does not function then it would be much harder for carers to work in partnership with the LD service, and Carolyn confirmed that she regards this as essential. Barbara Wilson pointed out that the Forum can take issues higher, eg to government level, but carers must be prepared to take a lead.</p> <p>Rosemary Huxtable proposed that the £4k is used to run meetings until alternative funding is found and Linda Stapleton suggested that the Task Group, which meets after the main meeting, should take this forward.</p>	<p><i>Task Group to progress</i></p>
<p>Carers' Grant</p>	<p>Needs to be spent by end of March.</p> <p>Some is going into Take a Break, some into taster sessions for flexible breaks.</p> <p>Julia Blood reports that she runs the Take a Break sitting service. LD carers are using it privately, but she has not been approached by service managers.</p> <p>Dinny pointed out that costs are incurred by carers for transport.</p> <p>Brigid said she knows of 3 carers who have been approached in East Devon, so it is probably just slow to get going.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Carers Grant to be included in next agenda</i> 2. <i>Duncan Hepburn to be invited to next meeting</i> 3. <i>June to find out if money can be carried forward to next financial year</i> 4. <i>Above information to be sent out with minutes if possible.</i>
<p>Staff Development Day 20 March 2008</p>	<p>June reported that carers have been invited by Duncan Hepburn to have a stand at this event. This had been discussed at the PB Carers' subgroup, and Carers Support Workers have been emailed about it.</p> <p>Some carers expressed concern that it had been decided to close services on that day.</p>	<p><i>For discussion by Task Group</i></p>

<p>Update on Action Plan</p> <p>Carolyn Elliott</p>	<p>As requested, Carolyn has created an Action Plan based on that used for North Devon. However, input from each patch is needed as issues are not the same throughout the county.</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information database – Carolyn, Dinny and Jeanette Kemlo have looked at the Surrey database model. It might be possible to use with Partnership Board. Help from IT Department would be necessary. • Person Centred Planning (PCP) – PB had requested that independent people should do it. Some of the £60k allocated has now been spent but there have been problems recruiting people to do the work. • Carolyn has agreed with David Johnstone that she will put together a 3 year plan so that all clients will have a PCP – these will then have to be kept up to date. David Johnstone will help find the money to do this properly. • Children in Transition – all will need a PCP before the age of 18. Ellen Tinkham School are doing this and Carolyn is working with them. However, mainstream schools also need to be involved. <p>Carolyn gave out some copies of the Action Plan.</p>	<p><i>Task Group to look at this.</i></p> <p><i>Report back when there is more information.</i></p>
<p>Update on Task Group</p> <p>Linda Stapleton</p>	<p>Linda said that the purpose of the Task Group is to look at the detail of issues discussed and reported on at the County Carers' Forum. Anyone is welcome to join the group which will meet immediately after each Forum. The report of each Task Group meeting will be sent out with the minutes of the next Forum.</p>	<p><i>Linda to send Task Group minutes to Hilary</i></p>
<p>Any other business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hate Crime – Barbara Wilson said that there is currently a lot of consultation going on which can be fed into. Hate crime affects carers as well as service users. Carolyn reported that Hate Crime will be on a PB agenda early in the new financial year. There are several initiatives already going on in Devon such as the Community Safety Partnership, and a 'PIP pack' (People in Partnership) has been produced. Barbara would like more carers to be involved in these initiatives. 2. Barbara Paul asked people to send her information on carers' meetings around the county as she would like to attend as many as she can. 3. Carers suggested that an information sheet about events of interest could be sent out with the minutes. 	<p><i>Barbara to send paper on Hate Crime to Hilary</i></p> <p><i>All to send details of carers meetings to barbara@speedwellquilts.co.uk</i></p> <p><i>All to send information about events to hilary.b.allen@devon.gov.uk so that a list can be compiled to go out with minutes.</i></p>

	<p>4. Julia Blood told people about a Benefits conference in Teignbridge in February.</p> <p>5. Direct Payments – there is a conference in Taunton on 29 February, hosted by the Valuing People Support Team. All carers are welcome and expenses will be paid.</p> <p>6. ROC – 3 carers will be visiting ROC in Totnes to view a range of their services.</p>	<p><i>For information, phone 01626 889288</i></p> <p><i>Contact Anne Brand for more information 01392494694</i></p>
Dates of future meetings	Monday 31 March 2008 – Isca Centre, 10 – 1	
<p><i>The notes from this meeting will go onto the internet on 22 February 2008 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.</i></p> <p>www.carersindevon.org.uk www.learningdisabilitydevon.org.uk</p>		