

WIRRAL LEARNING DISABILITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD
NOTES of the MEETING HELD on
9TH NOVEMBER 2010
at the FLORAL PAVILLION, New Brighton

PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bob Moon (Co-Chair)	Councillor and Cabinet Lead,
Russell Kennedy (Co-Chair)	Enabling Fulfilling Lives
Rick O'Brien	Head of Branch DASS
Vicky Forfar	Enabling Fulfilling Lives
Eddie Griffiths	Enabling Fulfilling Lives
Russell Grant	Integrated Commissioning Manager DASS/NHS Wirral
Jayne Marshall	Principal Manager DASS
Sheila Jacobs	Regeneration Dept. – Housing
Joan Studdart	Carers Development Committee
David Devey	Enabling Fulfilling Lives
Pauline Toohey	Enabling Fulfilling Lives
Annette Roberts	Voluntary Community Action Wirral
Maura Noone	Head of Branch DASS
Jenny Garnet	Merseytravel
Peter Edmondson	Children's and Young People's Dept
Steve Rowley	Head of Support Services Finance Dept
Peter Curtis	Enabling Fulfilling Lives
Ruth Stern	Leisure Services (attending for Jim Lester)
Gerry Flanagan	NHS Wirral (attending for Sheila Hillhouse)

VISITING PRESENTERS

Dave Biddle	Reform Manager DASS
Maria Nash	Barnet Learning Disability Parliament

SUPPORT TEAM

Jean Pentecost	DASS
Karen Bingham	Minute secretary DASS
Jenny Carter	Enabling Fulfilling Lives

2. APOLOGIES

Norman Bird	Enabling Fulfilling Lives
Paul Buckingham	Enabling Fulfilling Lives
Howard Cooper	Interim Director DASS
Sheila Hillhouse	NHS Wirral
Jim Lester	Leisure Services

3. NOTES OF MEETING 6TH SEPTEMBER 2010

The Notes were Agreed as a true record. There were two matters arising which were

Real Jobs

Rose Boylan would be replacing Kevin Adderley on the LD Partnership Board and would lead on Real Jobs.

Equality Impact and North West Training & Development Team

Steve Rowley and Russell Grant had met with representatives of the North West Training & Development Team to strengthen the original proposal approved by the Partnership Board to link equality issues to the setting up of local arrangements that will ensure that all groups of people identified in Valuing People Now are able to have their say in the work of the Partnership Board. The North West Training & Development Team had agreed to revise and update the original proposal for consideration, which would come back to the Partnership Board once finalised.

4. NOTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING 24TH SEPTEMBER 2010

The Notes were Agreed as a true record. There were three matters arising:

Hate Crime

There was a Hate Crime conference on 17th and 19th November in Blackpool and a report would come back to the board. It was agreed that stopping hate crime was very important part of safeguarding, particularly for people with Learning Disabilities. Maura Noone said that Amanda Kelly was the Safeguarding Adults manager and should be informed of all developments.

Development Day

Russell Grant said that the date for the development day to set the Board's revised Terms of Reference would be 29 November 2010.

Carers' Information Leaflet

Jean Pentecost had identified funding and was updating leaflets and fact sheets.

5. REGIONAL 'SAVING LIVES' MEETING – Russell Kennedy & Bob Moon

Russell Kennedy and Bob Moon reported on the Regional 'Savings Lives' meeting on 16th September. There had been a presentation on the difference that can be made by osteotherapy for people who had spinal malformations. Pauline Toohey said that there was also a local event on this on 19th November. It was agreed that the Board should support such events in this area and Jean agreed to circulate a leaflet board members.

6 REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS

The headlines from the Sub-group reports were as follows

Having A Life Sub-Group : Joan Studdart

Transport: There was an access panel, which meets at Hatton Garden every 12 weeks. Jean Pentecost said she had brought leaflets on this. Joan said there were several

examples of improvements in access across Merseytravel services for people with learning disabilities.

Carers: WIRED had told Joan Studdart that the majority of phone calls received from carers were about the personal budget. Carers were worried the budget wouldn't be sufficient to cater for needs. Maura Noone agreed to raise this at the Carers Committee meeting on 12th November.

Joan said that communication between carers and social services was not good. Letters need to be acknowledged and a time scale given for replies. Maura Noone asked for more details to be provided outside of the meeting, as she was in charge of complaints and customer feedback and was concerned if carers were not receiving timely responses. Rick O'Brien said that if there were specific cases and the necessary information was provided then they would be dealt with.

Self Advocacy: People with Learning Disabilities weren't always confident enough to speak up and needed training in self advocacy but Joan had been told this was not possible due to lack of funding. Russell Kennedy, Vicky Forfar and Jenny Carter had however started to meet with Nicky Hancocks in DASS to think about what could be done. The Board agreed that the development of self-advocacy was important and asked for an update at the next meeting.

Safeguarding: Jenny Carter said that there was not much information about safeguarding available in the day centres and that the Safeguarding training pack was hard for people with Learning Disabilities to understand. Jayne Marshall said that staff themselves were going to be trained to use the training pack.

Personalisation Sub-Group – Eddie Griffiths.

NHS Wirral representation: Sheila Hillhouse was now the NHS Wirral representative on the sub-group.

Transition: Wirral had been short-listed for a national award (The Health Service Journal Awards) Pauline and some of her colleagues have been nominated for an award. JM advised there is a new transitions protocol in place for when children move from CYPD to DASS

Personal Budgets: Vicky Forfar was concerned that there was not a lot of information available about personal budgets. Bob Moon said that there was an improvement plan for training and information for providers, carers and service users.

People as Citizens Sub-Group –

There was no report from the People as Citizens Sub Group.

7. HOUSING ACTION PLAN – Sheila Jacobs

Sheila Jacobs tabled an outline framework for the Housing Action Plan for people with a learning disability. This had been prepared in consultation with officers from health and social services and housing strategy dept.

Eddie Griffiths asked if housing providers were involved? Sheila confirmed that they would be. It was recognised that there was good engagement with housing providers and there had been some good developments in recent years but that this had been mostly opportunistic and needed to be more planned and structured. Sheila's work was progressing at the same time as the Council had published for consultation its Housing Strategy to 2026. Bob Moon said that it was important that both fitted together to the advantage of people with learning disabilities.

Vicky Forfar said there was not much mention in the outline of where people would find information on help with housing and this was important.

Russell Grant asked if there was a deadline for completion of the plan so that the Partnership Board could be assured that developments were 'on track'?

It was recognised that the Board's revised Terms of Reference proposed a sub-group on Housing, as this was one of the top three priorities in Valuing People Now. There would be more discussion at the Development Day to confirm reporting arrangements to the Board on priority areas.

Bob Moon supported these comments and the Board agreed that the outline plan was a good start.

7. "MAKING IT HAPPEN" UPDATE (Russell Grant) and REVISED IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Dave Biddle)

Making it Happen Update – Russell Grant

The 'Making it Happen' report tells of progress on all of the work in the Strategic Commissioning Framework approved by Council Cabinet and NHS Wirral in early 2010.

The new government had confirmed its commitment to Valuing People Now and the top 3 priorities of health, housing and employment.

Most areas of the Strategic Framework were on schedule except for Information, particularly Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, However a JSNA programme manager was to come into post in January 2011. Annette Roberts said that VCAW was separately taking forward some work that might provide information about the use people with learning disabilities made of local voluntary organisations. Russell Grant and Annette Roberts agreed to meet to explore this further.

Revised Wirral Council Improvement Plan – Dave Biddle

David Biddle reported progress on the Council's Improvement Plan. A Monitoring Group chaired by the Director of Social Services met every month to ensure all was on target. The Board agreed that Dave Biddle should also provide a written update on the Improvement Plan to its meetings

8. HEALTH SELF ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN - Gerry Flanagan

Gerry Flanagan made a presentation, which outlined NHS Wirral's self-assessment of health services for people with learning disabilities in Wirral and the action plan needed to

address gaps in services, ahead of a validation visit from NHS North West later in November. Following the validation visit, NHS North West would write to confirm how Wirral was doing and what action would be needed.

The Partnership Board agreed that the assessment and Action Plan accorded with its understanding of local health services, as recorded in the Board's Self Assessment in March 2010. The Board also agreed that NHS Wirral should report the outcome of the validation visit and its action plan, once the response from NHS North West was received.

9. SPECIALIST LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES IN WIRRAL REPORT – Russell Grant & Jayne Marshall

Russell Grant's report had been circulated with the agenda. It confirmed that Wirral had made progress on specialist health services as set out in the Department of Health's Good Practice Guidance of 2007. It also proposed the outcomes that should be commissioned from our specialist community learning disability service in future. Key to the outcomes was better integration between specialist health and learning disability services.

Gerry Flanagan welcomed the proposed developments, and reminded that Valuing People Now said that the health needs of people with Learning Disabilities should as far as possible should be met in the same way as everybody else.

Jayne Marshall set out the proposed model to get health services provided by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Social Services' learning disability team working better together. There needed to be a strong focus on enabling people to be independent.

The Board recognised that this was a big project that would take some time to make happen. It was agreed that at its meeting in January 2011, Jayne Marshall should provide the Board with an update and an implementation plan that could be used to check progress was being made.

10. BARNET LEARNING DISABILITY PARLIAMENT – Maria Nash

Russell Kennedy had invited Maria Nash to make a presentation about Barnet Learning Disability Parliament.

Maria considered that Easy Read was only one way of empowering people. It needed to be combined with training, support and advocacy. The Easy Read documents should be in colour so people with dyslexia can read them and ensure documents available on the internet are also available in Easy Read.

Maria said that people in Barnet had decided that a platform needed to be created where people with a learning disability could have more of a voice. This resulted in the setting up of the Barnet Learning Disability Parliament. Everyone with a learning disability in Barnet was able to vote for the Parliament's MPs. The MPs had all received special training and capacity building. Each MP led on a particular issue important to the Parliament.

Annette Roberts asked if Barnet's Learning Disabilities parliament was supported by the local authority area? Maria said that it had received funding for one year.

Maura Noone said that there were already Older and Young Persons Parliaments in Wirral so a precedent had been set.

In response to Eddie Griffiths' question about Barnet parliament's greatest achievement, Maria considered that it was the enthusiastic participation of so many people with a learning disabilities in the elections for the parliament's MPs.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was one item of any other business:

Information Advice And Advocacy Strategy – Maura Noone

Maura Noone tabled copies of Adult Social Services' draft Information Advice And Advocacy Strategy. The draft would be discussed by the DASS Communications group in December 2010. Maura invited comments from Board members and advised that these could be addressed to her, Vicky Forfar or Jenny Carter. Annette Roberts offered to support publicising the strategy through VCAW. Maura was keen to utilise all of the outlets there were available to make sure people knew about the strategy.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th January 2011 Room 1 Wallasey Town Hall