

**NOTE OF THE TWELTH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY
IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2004
AT THE MEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE, LLANDRINDOD WELLS.**

PRESENT:

David Felce – Co-chair
Glayne Walker – Co-Chair (supported by Yvonne Hedges)

Members

Jim Crowe
Evan Davies
David Edwards (attending for Paul Leathwood/supported by Peter Wakeford)
Penny Hallas (attending for Nigel Miller)
Paul Lawrence (supported by Cyril Luke)
Chris Maggs
Liz Neal
Sean O'Reilly
Stephen Wade
Peter Watkins
Bryan Williams

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins

Others

Steve Beyer, Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities
Marilyn Evans, Department of Works and Pensions

1. Welcome & apologies

1.1 Steve Beyer, Marilyn Evans and Penny Hallas were welcomed to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Roger Banks, Margaret Gregory, Paul Leathwood, Nigel Miller, Brickchand Ramruttan and Ann Thomas (members) and Peter Meredith-Smith, Sarah Watkins and Pat Vogt (Assembly officials).

2. Presentation by Marilyn Evans – Department of Works and Pensions

2.1 Marilyn Evans, Programme Development Manager, Department of Works and Pensions gave a presentation on how Job Centre Plus can help people with a disability find a job. She spoke about the work of the Disability Employment Advisers & Job Brokers, Work Preparation, Permitted Work and Benefits etc. Members were given the opportunity to raise queries and provide

comments and a wide ranging discussion followed. The Group thanked Marilyn Evans for her informative presentation.

3. Presentation by Steve Beyer

3.1 Steve Beyer, Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities gave a presentation on employment and day opportunities for people with a learning disability. Members were given the opportunity to raise queries and provide comments and a wide ranging discussion followed. The Group thanked Steve Beyer for his interesting and thought provoking presentation.

4. Discussion on scoping the work on employment

4.1 Liz Neal reminded members about the content of the Employment Paper which was circulated and discussed at the Group's meeting in May. A discussion followed about what might go into the Policy Paper on these two topics and defining the work that the group could do to help move things along. Stephen Wade said that there were some aspects of day service provision that he was concerned about and that he would be prepared to do a paper on these/arrange for them to be covered in the January presentation if it would be helpful. It was agreed that in the first instance the group needed to establish the depth and breadth of the work already undertaken in England on day services and employment and seek to take forward aspects of this work on a joint basis with England. Members also agreed that: it would be important to develop good practice guidance; and that clarification should be sought from ELWA on their policy for supporting people with a learning disability. [Action: David Felce to write separately to the Department of Health and to ELWA as set out above].

5. Consideration of the consultation on Integrating Carers Assessments into the Unified Assessment process

5.1 John Carter introduced the consultation guidance and a discussion followed. Members generally welcomed and supported the proposals. It was agreed that a response to the consultation paper should go forward from the LDIAG based on the discussion. [Action: Evan Davies and Bryan Williams to respond on behalf of the LDIAG].

6. Determination of the sub group membership to undertake detailed consideration of the LA's responses to the Service Principles/Service Responses guidance.

6.1 Jim Crowe, David Edwards, Stephen Wade and Bryan Williams agreed to form this sub group.

7. Consideration of Group Membership

7.1 There was a discussion about whether the Group needed to add to its core membership to enable it to complete its expanded work programme. Three names were put forward: David Allen, Steve Beyer and Mike Kerr. Following a discussion and after a vote it was agreed, by the majority, that the

three people should be invited to join the Group. Members were advised that this would not preclude them co-opting members in the future if required.

[**Action:** David Felce to write to Jane Hutt seeking her agreement to invite David Allen, Steve Beyer and Mike Kerr to join the LDIAG].

8. Minutes of the last meeting (1st July 2004)

8.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

9. Action Log and Matters Arising

9.1 Group membership – The Secretariat confirmed that a letter had gone to the Association of Special Schools Head Teachers seeking a replacement for Chris Major.

9.2 Contemporary Policy Statement – the Group was advised that a meeting of the sub group had taken place and that the draft Policy Statement was due to be discussed at the October meeting. David Felce advised that he was hoping to meet Jane Hutt to discuss the draft Policy Statement before then.

[**Action:** David Felce to seek a meeting with the Minister]

9.3 Person Centred Approach – Members were advised that the service user version would be commissioned once the final guidance was issued.

[**Action:** SSIW]

9.4 Unified Assessment Process – A number of members said that they remained concerned about the Unified Assessment Process and its relevance to people with a learning disability. It was agreed that members would write to Graham Williams, SSIW expressing their concerns. [**Action:** Jim Crowe agreed to draft a letter for consideration by the Group].

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Annual Health Checks for People with a Learning Disability – Liz Neal advised members that David Melding AM had won the subordinate legislation ballot under Standing Order 31 and would be suggesting that new legislation was introduced to enable people with a learning disability to receive an Annual Health Check. [The motion was subsequently tabled for Assembly Plenary on 12th October]

10.2 Resettlement - Jim Crowe asked whether a progress report on resettlement and re-provisioning from Bryn y Neuadd could be made available at the next meeting [**Action** : Secretariat].

11. Date of Next Meeting

11.1 Members noted that the thirteenth meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Thursday, 14th October 2004 at the Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells.