NOTE OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 20th JANUARY 2005 AT RHAYADER LEISURE CENTRE.

PRESENT:

David Felce – Co-chair
Glayne Walker – Co-Chair (supported by Cyril Luke)

Members

David Allen
Steve Beyer
Wayne Crocker/Dawn Gullis (attending for Liz Neal)
Jim Crowe
Evan Davies
Ian Ferris
Helen Matthews
Sean O'Reilly
Stephen Wade
Peter Watkins
Bryan Williams

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins
Mick Fisher
Pat Vogt

1. Welcome & apologies

1.1 David Felce welcomed Helen Matthews (member) and Mick Fisher (Assembly official) to their first meeting of the Group. He also welcomed Wayne Crocker and Dawn Gullis who were attending for Liz Neal.

1.2 Apologies were received from David Edwards, Bethan Evans, Beverley Frowen, Margaret Gregory, Mike Kerr, Paul Lawrence, Chris Maggs, Liz Neal, Brickchand Ramruttun and Ann Thomas (members) and Sarah Watkins (Assembly official).

1.3 David Felce passed on the congratulations of the Group to Stephen Wade on his award in the New Years Honours list.

1.4 The Group was reminded of the recent change in the Minister for Health and Social Services. John Carter said that as far as he was aware the change should not impact on the work of the LDIAG.

Action :

- It was agreed that it would be helpful for the co-chairs to meet with the new Minister in due course.

2. Presentation and discussion on the 'Service Needs of Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities and Challenging Behaviour'.

2.1 David Allen gave a presentation on the Service Needs of Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities and Challenging Behaviour'. Members were given the opportunity to raise queries and a discussion followed. The Group thanked David for his informative presentation.

3. Discussion on how the Group wishes to take forward work on the LDIAG work programme item 7(ii) 'producing an expert paper on continuing health care designation'

3.1 Following on from David's presentation and the discussion it was agreed that this was an important area of work that the LDIAG should get involved in. It was agreed that a paper should be developed taking account of Bro Morgannwg's work, good practice models, commissioning and structural difficulties that may be encountered and that both inward and outward migration should be looked at. It was also agreed that the LDIAG should look at how to disseminate lessons learned to local authorities and that this could include training for Commissioners.

Action :

- David Allen, Jim Crowe, Chris Maggs, Helen Matthews and Peter Watkins to form a sub group with parent/carer and service user representatives to draft a paper for consideration by the Group. The sub group to have co-opting powers.

- For this work to be reflected in the draft Policy Paper.

- Secretariat to set up the first meeting of the sub group.

4. Presentation and discussion on Health Commission Wales.

4.1 John Shirreffs gave a presentation on the work of Health Commission Wales (HCW). Members were given the opportunity to raise queries and a discussion followed. The Group thanked John for his helpful presentation

Action :

- John Shirreffs to provide information to the LDIAG on how many people with a learning disability are in placements commissioned/funded by HCW and where the placements are located.

5. Consideration of how the Group wishes to take forward work on the LDIAG Work Programme 8(ii) and 8(iii) relating to SEN.

5.1 Item 8(ii) – Jim Crowe said that early intervention and the benefits of a multi-disciplinary approach was something that should be covered in the Children's NSF but that this did not appear to be the case. The opportunity was taken to discuss the draft response to the Children's NSF drawn up by Jim Crowe and Ian Ferris. There was some concern about the definition of the term learning disability used in the glossary; and that there was no reference to the prevalence rates for learning disabilities in the document. Members thanked Jim & Ian for drawing up the LDIAG response to the Children's NSF consultation document.

Action :

- David Felce agreed to e.mail the prevalence rates to Jim/Ian to include in the LDIAG response

- Jim/Ian to amend the draft response to include comments on prevalence rates and the learning disability definition.

- LDIAG consultation response to be routed through the Health and Social Services Minister or copied to him.

5.2 Item 8(iii) – John Carter said that it was important to rebuild links with SEN colleagues and WAGSEN. It was agreed that David Felce would give a presentation to WAGSEN on the work of the LDIAG and that WAGSEN should be invited to give a presentation to the LDAIG.

Action :

- Secretariat to make arrangements for the presentations to WAGSEN and the LDIAG.

6. Consideration of the LDIAG advice to the Minister on the 'Lessons to be Learnt from the Service Principles/Service Responses grant application round.

6.1 John Carter introduced the 'Lessons to be Learnt Paper' that had been prepared by the sub group and circulated to members. He stressed that the draft related to lessons learnt from the process to date. Members commented that they would like to see more user involvement in the process and that perhaps User Forums could be added into Point 8. Also that good monitoring of grant utilisation was required.

Action :

- Members to send their comments on the Paper to the Secretariat

7. Minutes of the last meeting (16th December 2004)

7.1 The draft minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

8. Action Log and Matters arising

8.1 Health checks – The Group was advised that a Sub –group meeting to discuss health checks had been organised for 10th February.

8.2 Communication Action Plan – Jim Crowe advised that the advert for the Communication Officer post should be in today's paper. The relevant sub group will take part in the selection process.

8.3 Supporting People Budget – At the last meeting of the Group it had been agreed that a letter should be sent from the LDIAG to Jane Hutt about cuts in the Supporting People Budget. This letter had been sent and a copy circulated to members.

8.4 Brickchand Ramruttun – Secretariat advised that they had e.mailed Brickchand as requested at the last meeting asking whether he wished to remain on the Group as an ADSS representative. Brickchand had responded with apologies for not attending meetings due to pressure of work. He had added that given additional staff were being recruited within the next 3 months which would take some pressure off him he would like to keep his place as a rep for the next 6 months and review the position then.

8.5 SP/SR LA Annual Monitoring Reports – John Carter advised that he had received one response from the Group to date. The deadline for comments was extended to the end of January.

Action :

- Members to send their comments to the Secretariat by 31st January.

8.6 Employment – Steve Beyer said that he understood that the work in England on day services and employment had been completed

Action :

- Steve Beyer agreed to follow this up.

8.7 Policy Statement – David Felce advised that Roger Banks had forwarded to him a revised version of the policy paper which incorporated comments from the last sub group meeting.

Action :

- Sub group to meet to discuss this draft before reporting back to the Group.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Carers Equal Opportunities Act – John Carter advised that at its meeting on 2 February, the Health and Social Services Committee would be scrutinising the draft Commencement Order which would bring the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act into force in Wales on 18 April 2005.

9.2 ELWA – Skill Build Scheme - Steve Beyer said that changes were being made to the Skill Build Scheme which could lead to the exclusion of people with a learning disability. The Group agreed that it wished to make representations to the relevant Minister about this.

Action :

- Steve Beyer agreed to draft a letter in consultation with Liz Neal and David Felce to send to Jane Davidson. Letter to be sent to the Secretariat for circulation to the Group.

9.3 Too Much Trouble to Treat – Stephen Wade drew members attention to a Five Live Radio Report to be broadcast on Sunday 23rd January at 10.00am about people with a learning disability dying unnecessarily from treatable conditions because GP's and hospitals were failing to find out what was really wrong with them.

9.4 Accessing Mental Health Services – Helen Matthews said that she was concerned that there was evidence that people with a learning disability did not have equal access to mental health services. The Group agreed that if there was evidence to support this then it should be drawn to the attention of the Minister.

Action :

- Helen Matthews to do a first draft of a paper and send to the Secretariat for circulation to the Group.

10. Date of Next Meeting

10.1 As there were no substantive items for discussion at the meeting scheduled for 24th February it was agreed that it should be cancelled. Members noted that the seventeenth meeting of the Implementation Advisory

Group would take place on Thursday, 31st March 2005 at the Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells.

Action :

- Secretariat to advise members not present at the meeting, of the cancellation of the February meeting.

Alyson Collins
Secretariat to the Learning Disability
Implementation Advisory Group