

NOTE OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 31ST MARCH 2005 AT THE MEDIA RESOURCES CENTRE, LLANDRINDOD WELLS.

PRESENT:

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

Members

David Allen
Jim Crowe
Evan Davies
David Edwards (supported by Peter Wakeford)
Bethan Evans
Ian Ferris
Chris Maggs
Helen Matthews
Liz Neal
Louise Price (supported by Yvonne Herne)
Ann Thomas
Stephen Wade
Peter Watkins
Bryan Williams

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins
Mick Fisher

Others

Kai Jones – Information Officer, SCOVO

1. Welcome & apologies

1.1 David Felce advised the Group that Stephen Lawrence had resigned his membership of the Group and that his place had been taken by Louise Price. Louise was welcomed to the meeting. He also advised that David Edwards had now become a permanent member of the Group. Bethan Evans, Welsh Therapists representative was welcomed to her first meeting of the Group as was Kai Jones the new Information Officer for SCOVO who was attending the meeting as an observer.

1.2 Apologies were received from Steve Beyer, Margaret Gregory, Mike Kerr, Sean O'Reilly and Brickchand Ramruttun (members) and Pat Vogt and Sara Watkins (Assembly officials).

2. Consideration of the letter dated 28th February 2005 to the co-chair from the Learning Disability Voluntary Service Providers (Adults) Chief Officers Group.

2.1 A copy of the letter dated 28th February was sent out to all members prior to the meeting along with an article from Llais on the Chief Officers Group (COG). David Felce explained the background to the correspondence from COG. Members agreed that it was inappropriate for the LDIAG to have discussions with only selected outside groups on the content of the draft policy statement and that the appropriate time for others to comment on the Policy Statement was as part of any consultation that may be undertaken by the Assembly.

Action

- David Felce to write back to COG on the lines agreed.

3. Consideration of Version 17 of the draft Policy Statement.

3.1 Members split into three groups to consider 5 questions set out in a Discussion Paper sent out to them prior to the meeting. The views of the Groups on each of the 5 questions were then fed back to main group. It was agreed that each of the groups would e. mail David Felce/Chris Maggs with their comments and suggested amendments so they could be worked into the final version of the Policy Statement. The proposal was to sign off the Policy Statement at the May meeting of the LDIAG and present it to the Minister in June.

Action

- Members to e.mail David Felce/Chris Maggs with comments by 14th April.

4. Minutes of the last meeting (20th January 2005)

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

5. Action Log and Matters arising

5.1 Health Checks – The Group was advised that the draft model Local Enhanced Service (LES) had been circulated to the sub-group. Formal negotiations had been held with GPC Wales who it was understood would be proposing some changes to the Cardiff Health Check. The frequency of the health checks had yet to be determined. The Pearl II project seemed to suggest that Annuals Health Checks were best.

5.2 Communication Action Plan – Jim Crowe advised that the Communication Officer post had been filled. He thanked the Communication sub group for their contribution to the process.

5.3 Supporting People Budget – Chris Maggs said that the Supporting People Budget had been cut by more than at first thought and that further significant cuts were expected in 2005-06.

5.4 Employment – Members were advised that the work in England on day services and employment was still with their Minister for consideration.

5.5 Children's NSF – It was agreed that the final LDIAG response to this consultation should be circulated to members.

Action

- Ian Ferris/Jim Crowe to send an electronic version of the final paper to the Secretariat for circulation to the Group.

5.6 Special Educational Needs – Members were advised that arrangements had been made for David Felce to give a presentation to WAGSEN on 18 April on the work of the LDIAG.

5.7 Lessons to be Learnt from the Service Principles/Service Responses grant application round – Paper to be circulated to all members.

Action

- Secretariat to circulate Paper.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Disability Rights Commission : Formal Investigation into Health Inequalities experienced by people with a learning disability and mental health problems – John Carter said that the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) had offered to give a presentation to the Group on their ongoing investigation. The Group agreed that this would be beneficial.

Action

- Secretariat to arrange a date for the DRC to give a presentation to the LDIAG.

6.2 Accessible Version of the Service Principles/Service Responses Guidance and Person Centred Assessments and Person Centred Planning Guidance – John Carter drew members attention to the accessible version of the SP & SR Guidance that had been circulated at the meeting and advised that the accessible version of the Person Centred Planning Guidance would be available shortly. Audio versions of the documents were also available. He advised that the documents could be reproduced freely and that electronic and audio versions of both were available.

Action :

- Members to advise Secretariat of the number of copies of each of the documents (including audio versions) to be sent to their organisations.

6.3 Third round of the Advocacy Grant Scheme – John Carter drew members attention to the lists, circulated at the meeting, which detailed the organisations receiving funding under Year 3 of the Advocacy Grant Scheme.

6.4 Joint Committee Report on Mental Health Bill – John Carter advised that the joint parliamentary committee had carried out its pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Mental Health Bill and that the UK Government had 60 days to make a formal response to the Committee's Report.

6.5 Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People – Jim Crowe drew members attention to the Report from the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit on 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People'. It was agreed that this Report would be considered by the Group at a future date.

Action

- David Felce/Secretariat – date for consideration to be determined when the Group's future workplan is discussed.

6.6 Bournewood Judgement – John Carter advised that DoH had now commenced a consultation on how to address the issues raised by the Bournewood Judgement.

6.7 Transition Planning – Members were advised that the Audit Commission were undertaking a audit on transition planning across 7 bodies including Swansea, Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot LA's and 3 LHB's.

Action

- Secretariat to provide members with a copy of the final audit report in due course.

7. Date of Next Meeting

7.1 Members noted that the eighteenth meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Thursday, 12th May 2005 at the Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells.

Alyson Collins
Secretariat to the Learning Disability
Implementation Advisory Group