

**NOTE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY
IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 2nd APRIL 2003 AT THE
QUALITY HOTEL, CARDIFF**

PRESENT:

Professor David Felce – Co- Chair

Members

John Ashton
Roger Banks
Jim Crowe
Evan Davies
Chris Evans (temporary member)
Ian Ferris
Liz Neal
Paul Lawrence
Chris Maggs
Louise Price (temporary member)
Julie Thomas
Stephen Wade
J P Williams
Julia Williams

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins
Peter Lawler
Mo Madrick
Peter Meredith Smith
Sarah Watkins

Also present: Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Health and Social Services (part of the time)

The Co-chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the Learning Disability Implementation Advisory Group and introduced Jane Hutt, the Minister for Health and Social Services.

The Minister reminded members that she had outlined the Welsh Assembly Government's response to 'Fulfilling the Promises' in Plenary in July 2003. She said that the report had been well received and thanked those that had helped draw up the document, which included some of the members of the Implementation Advisory Group. The Minister said that it was vital for people with a learning disability to be fully engaged in the work of the Group and that she had already agreed in principle that people with a learning disability and the voluntary sector should be supported to play an active part in the work of

the Group. She thanked members for agreeing to be part of the Group and wished them well for the work ahead.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Brickchand Ramrattan, Pat Vogt and Peter Watkins.

2. Welsh Assembly Government's Response to Fulfilling the Promises.

2.1 John Carter drew the Group's attention to and briefly outlined the Cabinet Paper that set out the Welsh Assembly Government's response to 'Fulfilling the Promises'. He reminded members that the response was not restricted to the portfolio of the Minister for Health and Social Services. He also drew members attention to the paper circulated at the meeting which set out the additional funding secured over the next three years to implement the Welsh Assembly Government's response.

3. Composition of the Group.

3.1 The Group considered its composition and whether it had the necessary expertise to carry out its work. It was agreed that there were some gaps in its knowledge i.e Black and Ethnic Minority Issues; Education; General Practice; and Pre-school children and that people with expertise in these areas should be invited to become members of the Group. [**Action:** it was agreed that the Secretariat should write seeking nominations to fill the gaps in expertise identified by the Group].

3.2 Members agreed that all papers provided to members were in the public domain and could be distributed to non-members unless any paper indicated otherwise.

4. Organisation of Group meetings

4.1 The Group agreed that future meetings should be held in mid Wales and run from 10.30am to 3.00pm. Any business not completed in the time available would be carried forward to the next meeting. [**Action** – it was agreed that the Secretariat should draw up a schedule of future monthly meetings for consideration at the next meeting]

4.2 It was agreed that it would be appropriate for members to send deputies should they be unable to attend future meetings.

5. Terms of Reference of the Group

5.1 The draft Terms of Reference were discussed. It was agreed that they should not be set in stone at the outset and for this reason the second sentence of Point 7 should be amended to read 'The Implementation Advisory Group at their first meeting *and as necessary in future meetings* will consider

their Terms of Reference'. Otherwise the Terms of Reference were accepted as drafted. Group members were of the view that if the Group was to prove effective it needed to have something to be measured against. It was agreed that when the Group's future work programme was being developed, members would consider whether an outcomes column should be added to the annex to the Terms of Reference.

6. Proposals from the Consortium

6.1 The proposals from the Consortium fall into two distinct areas – the support to be offered to people with learning disabilities to play as full a part as possible in the work of the Group; and the support to be made available to voluntary sector organisations to network on behalf of the Group. Mr Carter said that the Assembly was committed to supporting people with a learning disability within the Group and that this would be the subject of separate discussions between Assembly officials and the Consortium. The case for supporting the voluntary sector organisations, as set out in the Consortiums proposals, was not as clear cut. Not all voluntary sector organisations were represented within the Consortium and not all people with a learning disability were members of a voluntary organisation. The Group agreed that they needed to develop a Communications Strategy so that all stakeholders could be kept informed of their work and contribute to the Group's deliberations. [Action – Secretariat to place on the June agenda].

7. Future Work programme

7.1 Mr Carter drew members attention to the Annex attached to the Group's Terms of Reference that set out a draft work programme. Taking each of the tasks in turn the position was:

LA Guidance – work had started on converting the grid in 'Fulfilling the Promises' into guidance and a draft should be available for the Group's consideration in September/October. Liz Neal and Stephen Wade offered to help the secretariat draft the service principles/services responses guidance and Chris Maggs was volunteered in his absence.

LA Audits/Action Plans – the LA plans would probably not be received until the end of the financial year.

Advocacy specification – discussed at para. 8 below.

Social Services Inspectorate Wales (SSIW) Guidance on Person Centred Planning – a small working group had been set up to take this work forward under the auspices of SSIW and the Group would have the opportunity to consider the draft before it went out to consultation in the summer.

SSIW development work on transition planning – the work was progressing and was likely to be completed later in the year.

National Service Framework (NSF) for Children – the NSF was split into 6 modules : Acute Services; CAMHS; disabled children; maternity; healthy children/universal services; and children in special circumstances. It was agreed that Family Health Branch would give a presentation on the NSF at the next meeting of the Group. This would be prior to the consultation period which meant that the Group could inform the discussion. **[Action – Secretariat to arrange]**

Resettlement Programmes – John Carter said that regular updates would be provided on the resettlement programmes.

Education – It was agreed that Education colleagues would make a presentation on Special Education Needs at the next meeting of the Group. **[Action – Secretariat to arrange]**

Housing study – It is possible that some of this work could be done in-house and further consideration will be given to this in future meetings. John Carter advised that money for the study should be secured before the end of the year.

The Group noted the position.

8 Advocacy

8.1 The draft Advocacy Specification had been circulated to Group members for consideration. It was suggested that for clarity Point 3 (d), 3rd bullet point on page 4 (2nd line) should be changed from 'by the client ' to 'to the client'. Otherwise the specification as drafted was accepted. John Carter advised members of the list of companies on the draft invitation to tender list. The Group suggested other possible companies and it was agreed that the Norah Fry Research Centre and the Learning Disability Foundation should be added to the list. Dr Roger Banks volunteered to join the tender evaluation exercise. The Group agreed to help in the design of the grant scheme details and consideration of the grant bids – and that this should be discussed at the next meeting. **[Action – Secretariat to put on the June agenda].**

8.2 The Group agreed to prepare a paper on advocacy to inform the development of the grant scheme and that this should be considered further at the next meeting. **[Action - Secretariat to place on the June agenda].**

9. Resettlement

9.1 John Carter advised that the resources for the social care element of all the resettlement programmes had been secured and that the Bryn y Neuadd resettlement programme was now to start in earnest. All social care resettlement was due for completion in 2006.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 The Group agreed that any member proposing an item for the agenda should prepare a paper in advance of the relevant meeting and send it to the secretariat for circulation to members.

10.2 John Carter said that the Minister had asked for a member of the Implementation Advisory Group to sit on the All Wales Strategy for Autism – External Working Group to provide a link between the work of the two groups. David Felce and Liz Neal agreed to share this task. [**Action** – Secretariat to advise the autism group secretariat of this].

10.3 John Carter drew members attention to a report produced by the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities entitled ‘ Today and Tomorrow’ – the report on the Growing Older with Learning Disabilities Programme.

11. Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The next meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group was agreed for Thursday, 5th June.

Alyson Collins
Secretariat to the
Learning Disability Advisory Group.