

**NOTE OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE LEARNING
DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON
27TH OCTOBER 2005 AT THE MEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE,
LLANDRINDOD WELLS.**

PRESENT:

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

Members

Steve Beyer
David Edwards (supported by Peter Wakeford)
Bethan Evans
Margaret Gregory
Chris Maggs
Helen Matthews
Liz Neal
Brickchand Ramruttun
Ann Thomas
Bryan Williams
John Williams
Kate Young (attending for Jim Crowe)

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins
Mick Fisher

Others

Lis Walters – Communication Officer, SCOVO

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Dave Allen, Julie Caffell, Jim Crowe, Evan Davies, Ian Ferris, Mike Kerr, Louise Price, Sean O'Reilly and Stephen Wade (members) and Pat Vogt (Assembly official).

2. Feedback from the Co-chairs meeting with the Minister to discuss the final draft of the contemporary Policy Statement drawn up by the Group.

2.1 David Felce reported that the meeting with the Minister had been a very positive one. The Minister noted that the document had been written from the Assembly perspective rather than the LDIAG perspective and that a number of the issues raised fell outside his portfolio. The Minister also noted that some of the key areas could potentially have very large price tags attached to them. It was agreed that the document should be reworked to take out references to the Welsh Assembly Government and then go out to consultation on a without prejudice basis. The LDIAG would then have the opportunity to amend the document in the light of the consultation responses before resubmitting it to the Minister for his further consideration. The Minister could then discuss with other Ministers, possibly in Cabinet, before making a final decision on whether the document should be issued by the Welsh Assembly Government as its contemporary statement of Learning Disability Policy in Wales. On resources, the co-chairs agreed that the LDIAG could make representations on the how these could best be used although to do this effectively the Group would need to have some idea of how much was available.

Action :

- David Felce and John Carter to rework the document to take out references to the Welsh Assembly Government.
- The Strategic Planning Group to look at resources and priorities in due course.

3. Consideration of BILD's Evaluation Report on the Advocacy Grant Scheme.

3.1 John Carter introduced this item and asked for the Group's views on the analysis and conclusions; whether the Assembly should continue this funding, if so why and what form the new grant scheme should take; and whether the Report threw up any research possibilities. He added that ideally the Minister should make an announcement on the future of the grant scheme before the end of the year to allow sufficient time for a new grant scheme to be organised or for grant recipients to give 3 months notice to employees employed with the benefit of the grant scheme. A paper from Bridgend People First in support of the continuation of the Advocacy Grant Scheme was circulated.

3.2 After a discussion the Group agreed to recommend to the Minister that the grant should be rolled forward to existing recipients for two years; that the supported advocacy grant schemes should be evaluated during the first year; that any schemes underperforming should lose their grant; that any released grant should be applied to advocacy schemes in the priority areas identified in the evaluation report; and that the opportunity should be taken during the two year period to identify best practice and develop advocacy standards that

could be applied in future application rounds. The Group also agreed to recommend to the Minister that this 2 year developmental cycle should be followed by a new 3 year grant scheme.

Action :

- Steve Beyer and David Felce to draw up a letter from the LDIAG on the Advocacy Grant Scheme and send to the Minister by 18th November.

4. Break-out sessions for Sub-Groups

4.1 In view of the short notice given for this item break-out sessions were not held. It was however agreed that time should be included for such sessions possibly at the start or end of each LDIAG meeting to give sub-group members the opportunity to discuss progress on their work/arrange dates for meetings.

Action :

- Secretariat to include provision in future agendas for sub groups to meet.

5. Reports from Sub-Groups

5.1 Sub-group 1 : Strategic Planning Sub-group

Liz Neal advised that the sub –group had met once and had agreed to meet for half a day each month over the next six months. At its next meeting the sub-group is to finalise its forward work programme and agree co-options. In response to a query it was confirmed that it was for each sub-group to agree co-options and that they did not need to be referred back to the main Group.

5.2 Sub-group 2 : Health Sub-group

Notes from the first meeting of the sub-group were circulated. Helen Matthews advised that it had been agreed to split the sub group into two groups to develop Toolkits for two areas of work :

- Access to general healthcare; and
- Mental Health/Challenging behaviour

5.3 Sub-group 3 : Meaningful Lives Sub-group

Notes from the first meeting of the sub-group were circulated. Steve Beyer said that the sub group was considering holding some 1 day workshops and asked whether the Assembly would be prepared to meet the costs of experts in the field (possibly from outside Wales) attending these work shops. John Carter said that the Assembly would be prepared to meet reasonable and appropriate sub group costs.

5.4 Sub-group 4 : Children and Young People

In Jim Crowe and Ann Thomas' absence it was reported that an initial list of co-options had been drawn up but that an initial meeting had not yet been held.

6. Discussion on the draft correspondence on the Bryn y Neuadd Resettlement Plan.

6.1 Two draft letters drawn up by David Felce were circulated prior to the meeting – one relating to the proposed continuing healthcare provision for people with a learning disability on the Bryn y Neuadd site and the other relating to Independent and Statutory provision for people with learning disabilities and severely challenging needs. A discussion followed on the content of the two letters.

Action :

- David Felce to redraft the letters in line with the points raised in the discussion and issue.

7. Dates of the 2006 Meetings.

7.1 The proposed dates for the 2006 meetings were agreed.

Action :

- Secretariat to send out a schedule of the agreed dates to members not present at the meeting.

8. Minutes of the last meeting (15th September 2005).

8.1 It was pointed out that paragraph 7.2 and its first bullet point should be amended to reflect that the letter on accessing Mental Health Services had been sent to the Minister and not the Assembly's Director of Mental Health. Otherwise the draft minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

9. Action Log and Matters arising

9.1 National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) learning disability programme presentation – Secretariat confirmed that they had contacted Stuart Bartley, NPHS as requested by the Group. He had advised that he was aware of NPSA's work but would look closely at some common areas of work as the LDIAG had suggested.

9.2 Revised Terms of Reference – Minister’s agreement to the revised Terms of Reference to be sought.

Action :

- David Felce to write to the Minister

9.3 Improving the Life Chances of Disable People - Liz Neal said that the meeting with Jane Davidson had been a very positive one and that the adjustment they were seeking had been agreed in principle.

9.4 Improving the LDIAG’s interface with WAGSEN –David Felce said the scheduled WAGSEN meeting had been postponed and there was still time for Group members to e.mail him with their ideas.

Action :

- Members to e.mail David Felce.

9.5 Analysis of the responses from the LA audit returns - David Felce said that he hoped to look at this for the December meeting.

Action :

- David Felce

9.6 Service Principles & Service Responses Monitoring Reports – John Carter advised that two-thirds of the reports had been received. The Group said that they would prefer to receive copies of the reports in one batch rather than piecemeal.

Action :

- Secretariat to circulate the monitoring reports in due course.

9.7 LDIAG Website – Lis Walters confirmed that the website was up and running.

Action

- Members to provide Lis with their pen picture for the LDIAG page of the website

9.8 Advocacy Conference – The Group agreed that a conference should be held in mid 2006 and that the Strategic Planning sub group should develop the conference outline.

Action :

- Strategic Planning sub group to consider as part of its forward work programme.

9.9 Study into present and future housing needs – the Group agreed that this piece of work needed to be undertaken to inform the Policy and Practice Guidance.

Action :

- David Felce agreed to draft a remit for the Group's consideration at the next meeting.

9.10 Presentations - the Group had previously agreed that it would like to have presentations from Rosie Cribbs, Social Firms Wales and Andrew Dearden, British Medical Association.

Action :

- For relevant sub groups to consider whether such presentations should proceed.

10. Any other business

10.1 Letter from Dr Caroline Eayrs, Chair, North Wales Health Trusts LD Network about the paucity of North Wales representation on the LDIAG – John Carter said that he had responded to Dr Eayrs on the lines that whilst the Minister may be prepared to consider an increase in the membership of the LDIAG he would not do so without first obtaining the endorsement of the Group itself. The Group discussed the skill mix and representation of the Group and took the view that it had sufficient expertise to undertake its present work programme. Should there be particular areas of work where the Group or sub groups needed additional expertise or advice then it had the option of co-opting. Members confirmed that they provided feedback to their professional bodies on the work of the Group and sought comments from those professional bodies to forward onto the LDIAG.

Action :

- Secretariat to put the Group's advice on this matter to the Minister

11. Date of Next Meeting

11.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Thursday, 1st December 2005 at the Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells.

Alyson Collins.
Secretariat to the LDIAG