

NOTE OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2006 AT RHAYADER LEISURE CENTRE.

PRESENT:

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

Members

Cynthia Arthur (supported by Malcolm Cansdale)
Wayne Crocker (attending for Liz Neal)
Evan Davies
Margaret Gregory
Chris Hughes (attending for Bethan Evans)
Helen Matthews
Louise Price (supported by Cyril Luke)
Bryan Williams
John Williams
Kate Young – part of the time (attending for Jim Crowe)

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins
Mick Fisher
Jill Lewis

Others

Lis Walters – Communication Officer, SCOVO
Donna Rigsby – Devolved Liaison Officer, DWP (part of the time)

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 Cynthia Arthur was welcomed to her first meeting as a service user representative and Chris Hughes (attending for Bethan Evans) and Jill Lewis, Social Services Inspectorate Wales, Welsh Assembly Government were also welcomed to their first meeting. Members were advised that David Edwards had regrettably had to stand down as a service user representative as he was unable to find a support worker to replace Peter Wakeford.

1.2 Apologies were received from David Allen, Steve Beyer, Brian Brayford, Julie Caffell, Jim Crowe, Bethan Evans, Ian Ferris, Mike Kerr, Chris Maggs, Liz Neal, Sean O'Reilly, Brickchand Ramruttun, Ann Thomas and Stephen Wade.

2. Presentation and discussion on The Life Chances of Disabled People – Donna Rigsby, Department of Works and Pensions.

2.1 Following the presentation Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and a discussion followed. The Group thanked Donna for her clear and helpful presentation.

Action :

- In response to a query on Individual Budget Planning (IBP) Donna agreed to ask a colleague, Paul McCourt to provide information on IBP and sent to the secretariat to circulate to members. (Secretariat).

3. Update on the LDIAG website and Communication Strategy - Lis Walters.

3.1 Lis Walters reported that the LDIAG website had received 841 'hits' in January; that the Forum was the most looked at page; and that those looking at the website included people from Swansea, Wrexham, Holland and Italy. 2 questions had been posted to the website on Direct Payments and the future of the Service Principles and Service Responses Grant Scheme. In addition Liz Withers the Policy Officer, National Autistic Society had expressed an interest in joining the LDIAG.

Action :

- Secretariat to provide Lis with responses to the two questions. Lis to ensure that any future questions posted to the website are responded to – liaising with LDIAG members or the Secretariat as appropriate.
- On Liz Withers request to join the LDIAG it was agreed that consideration would be deferred until a time when the Group was reassessing its work plan and could then determine whether it had sufficient expertise to carry it out.

4. Sub-groups Reports

4.1 **Sub-groups 2a&b : Health Sub-groups** – David Felce advised that he had received a letter from Mike Kerr (the leader of the sub group dealing with general health care) advising that the sub group had recently met with the

Chief Medical Officer to discuss the content of the regular health checks report for people with a learning disability. John Carter said that he understood that the Assembly Government was talking to the BMA General Practitioner Committee about delivering health checks through a directed local enhanced service.

Helen Mathews reported on behalf of the health sub group dealing with Mental Health and Challenging Behaviour that it was working on producing some expert guidance on challenging behaviour.

4.2 Sub-group 3 : Meaningful Lives Sub-group – Evan Davies and Louise Price advised that a workshop had been arranged for 2nd March to discuss 'Day Services – Reformation and Remodelling'.

4.3 John Carter asked if sub groups could provide advice on what work areas they were focussed on; what product they would be delivering to the main group for consideration; and in what timescale so that Secretariat/co-chairs could take this into consideration when considering the LDIAG's forward work plan.

Action :

- David Felce to write to sub group leaders asking them to outline their proposals.

4.4 David Felce advised that given the shift in work to the sub groups it had been agreed that for the next two LDIAG meetings, time would be set aside for sub groups to meet.

Action :

- Secretariat to take this into account in drafting LDIAG agendas and advise sub group leaders not present.

5 Local Authority data and audit analysis

5.1 David Felce drew members attention to a letter he had drafted to the Minister on 'Learning Disability Strategy and the need for research'. As agreed at the January meeting he intended enclosing with the letter the draft tender specification for research into present and future housing needs and suggesting that this research was expanded to include the number of people with a learning disability in Wales; the services they receive; and projected demographic trends and needs for support. Members indicated that they were content with the letter as drafted.

Action

- David Felce to issue the letter to the Minister on 'Learning Disability Strategy and the need for research' as drafted.

5.2 Members discussed again whether the 'Analysis of the Local Authority Audit Database' should be posted to the LDIAG website and it was agreed that it should not.

6. Minutes of the last meeting (12th January 2006)

6.1 It was pointed out that Cynthia was filling one of the vacant service users positions but that it had not yet been decided who would fill the position of co chair (Para 8.1).

7. Action Log and Matters arising

7.1 North Wales representation on the LDIAG – Advice has gone forward to the Minister recommending that the North Wales Health Trusts Learning Disabilities Network should be invited to nominate one representative to join the Group. Separately a representative of the Network is to be co-opted to join the health sub-group.

7.2 Participation of people with a learning disability in sub group work - It was agreed that further thought needed to be given to this possibly matching and co-opting people with a learning disability to sub groups.

8. Any other business

8.1 Advocacy Grant Scheme – John Carter advised that the Minister for Health and Social Services had agreed that the Advocacy Grant Scheme should continue for a further two years; that the main part of the grant resources should be applied to sustain the activity of existing grant recipients; and that any uncommitted grant should be applied to new advocacy projects in the priority areas identified by BILD. The Minister was however unable to agree to a new 3 year grant scheme being introduced from 2008-09 and that this would be considered during 2007.

8.2 Response from the Minister on 'Independent and Statutory Sector Provision for People with Learning Disabilities and Challenging Needs'. – David Felce drew member's attention to the response he had received from the Minister to his letter of 21 November.

Action

- David Felce to : relay the Minister's views to David Allen, leader of the Health sub group on Mental Health and Challenging Behaviour; and ask Ian Ferris for examples of large private sector residential facilities in Wales.

8.3 Glayne Walker – Members thanked Glayne for his valuable contribution

to the work of the Group, in particular his excellent work as co-chair and wished him well for the future.

9. Date of Next Meeting

9.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Thursday, 23rd March 2006 at Rhayader Leisure Centre.

Alyson Collins