

NOTE OF THE THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 10TH MAY 2007 AT THE MEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE, LLANDRINDOD WELLS.

PRESENT:

David Felce – Co-chair
Cynthia Arthur (supported by Malcolm Cansdale) – Co-chair

Members

Caroline Eayrs
Bethan Evans
Ian Ferris
Margaret Gregory
Linton Gower – attending for Chris Evans (supported by Celia Lewis)
Chris Maggs
Liz Neal
Sean O'Reilly
Louise Price (supported by Graham Lowe)
Judith Tomlinson
John Williams

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins
Jill Lewis
Peter Meredith-Smith

Others

Lis Walters – Communication Officer, Learning Disability Wales

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from David Allen, Steve Beyer, Bill Collins, Jim Crowe, Evan Davies, Chris Evans, Beverlea Frowen, Helen Matthews, Peter Woods and Pauline Young. Apologies were also received from Susan Elsmore, Welsh Assembly Government who was due to make a presentation on the Mental Capacity Act (Item 6 on the agenda).

1.2 The Group was advised that Jim Crowe had sent his apologies for not providing a paper on Person Centred Planning for the Group's consideration at the meeting (Item 5 on the agenda).

2. Feedback from People First Representatives

2.1 Cynthia Arthur thanked members for their feedback following her presentation at the last LDIAG meeting and noted that people's job descriptions had been added to the nameplates as suggested. Linton and Louise commented that not all of the papers for the meeting were received within the timescale agreed.

Action

- It was agreed that feedback from the PF representatives should be a standing item on all LDIAG agendas (Secretariat).

3. Sub group Reports

3.1 **Health Sub-group** – Ian Ferris introduced a paper drawn up by the sub-Group and a discussion followed on some of the items detailed :

Therapies - Bethan Evans advised that she was still trying to find a funding route for the proposed scoping exercise and that she was following up some leads.

Health Checks – There was a discussion about how successful the introduction of health checks in 2006-07 had been. Concern was expressed about the quantity and quality of the health checks undertaken in the first year; the existing administrative arrangements; and the lack of training for GP's. Nevertheless it was agreed that in the longer term the introduction of the health checks should prove beneficial to people with a learning disability and that the system should continue to improve in the light of experience. John Carter reminded members that the Welsh Assembly Government had commissioned the National Public Health Service and the Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities to undertake a 3 year research project looking into the take-up and quality of the health checks.

Action

- Therapies – to find a funding route for the proposed scoping exercise (Bethan Evans)
- Health Checks - to write to the Minister about the need to re-establish the health check as a Directed Enhanced Service; for training to be available to GP's; and for the health checks form to be integrated into the GP's IT system (David Felce).
- Disability Rights Commission Report - to consider what would be an appropriate health gain target for people with a learning disability and to have a further discussion about Service and Financial Framework (SAFF) targets (Secretariat/Members)

- To consider : the need for a wider discussion within the LDIAG on the health of people with a learning disability; whether to issue an invitation to the Chief Medical Office, Welsh Assembly Government to speak to the Group. (Members/Secretariat).
- National Confidential Enquiry – when writing to the Minister (as above) to ask about progress on this Enquiry (David Felce).

3.2 **Strategic Planning Sub-group** – Liz Neal said the sub-group was working with Steve Vaughan, CSSIW on commissioning but was not yet able to present a paper on this to the LDIAG.

4. Further consideration of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan for Wales consultation document.

4.1 David Felce introduced this item and the draft paper drawn up following the March meeting of the LDIAG and a discussion followed. Members questioned whether there was a need for an Action Plan given that the majority of people with autism had a co-existing learning disability and would be covered by the contemporary Statement on Policy and Practice for Adults with a Learning Disability. However it was acknowledged that people with Aspergers would fall outside this Statement and that an Action Plan may need to focus on this group of people.

Action

- To draw up a draft consultation reply and circulate to the Group for comments prior to submission to the Welsh Assembly Government. (David Felce).

5. Presentation on the Learning Disability Research & Development Network – Stuart Todd, Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities

5.1 Following the presentation Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and a discussion followed. The Group thanked Stuart for his helpful presentation.

6. Action Plan to support the Policy and Practice Statement

6.1 David Felce introduced this item and a discussion followed. Members agreed that an Action Plan should be developed and submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government for consideration. The status of the document and whether it should be underpinned by a task force or performance management arrangements would need to be considered.

Action

- The sub group that drafted the contemporary Statement to take on the work of drafting the Action Plan (David Felce, Chris Maggs, Liz Neal and Stephen Wade) with the addition of Judith Tomlinson and possibly Caroline Eayrs. Members were content for Roger Banks to also be involved in this work. (Drafting sub-group).
- To aim to submit a draft Action Plan to the Welsh Assembly Government by late summer (Drafting sub group).

7. Communication Strategy update

7.1 LDIAG Roadshows – Lis Walters said that the next LDIAG Roadshow was to be held in the Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno Junction on 19th June to be followed by a South Wales Roadshow on a date to be arranged in July. Lis said that these two roadshows would centre on the contemporary Statement on Policy and Practice for Adults with a Learning Disability - what it meant for people and the impact it would have on their lives and work.

Action

- For individual members to send Lis comments on what the contemporary statement meant for them and the groups they represent by 1st June (Members).

7.2 Website – Lis advised that the website had received 1000 hits in the year to date and that 45% visitors were returnees to the site. She said that a representative of the Caroline Walker Trust had contacted the site asking if she could make a presentation to the LDIAG on 'eating well for people with a learning disability'.

Action

- To advise the Caroline Walker Trust representative that due to a heavy workload the LDIAG was unable to accept her kind offer of a making a presentation to the Group (Lis Walters).

8. Minutes of the last meeting (1st March 2007)

8.1 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

9. Action Log and Matters Arising

9.1 LDIAG Membership on the proposed Bournemouth Advisory Group – John Carter said that he had suggested to Welsh Assembly Government

colleagues the names of LDIAG members who could be interested in being members of this Advisory Group.

9.2 Education pack for GP's – David Felce advised that he was still awaiting advice from the Welsh Assembly Government officials about this.

10. Any other business

10.1 **Advocacy Grant Scheme update report** – John Carter said that this report had been prepared for the Group's information. In answer to a query he confirmed that should Ministers agree to the Advocacy Grant Scheme continuing after March 2008 then the LDIAG would have a role in determining the details of the new grant scheme.

10.2 **Filming at the next LDIAG meeting** – Cynthia Arthur said that All Wales People First were providing funding for a film to be made about her work which would hopefully be an inspiration to other people with a learning disability. Members said that they were happy for Cynthia to be filmed during the next LDIAG meeting.

10.3 **E.mail from Jim Crowe** – David Felce advised that he had received an e.mail from Jim Crowe which raised two points : whether there would be a formal launch of the contemporary Statement on Policy and Practice; and concerns he had about the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) Service. On the former it was considered that if the relevant Minister did not wish to launch the Statement it could still be possible to have a launch of the Action Plan in the future.

Action

- In due course to seek the views of the relevant Minister on whether they would wish to formally launch the contemporary Statement on Policy and Practice for Adults with a Learning Disability. (Secretariat).
- Given that Susan Elsmore had sent apologies for the meeting, to ask Jim whether he would wish to raise his concerns on the IMCA Service direct with her or whether he would prefer the Secretariat to act on his behalf. (Secretariat).

11. Date of next meeting

11.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Thursday, 28th June 2007 at the Media Resource Centre, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells.

Alyson Collins
Secretariat to the LDIAG