

NOTE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER 2008 AT THE MEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE, LLANDRINDOD WELLS.

PRESENT:

David Felce – Co-chair

Linton Gower – Co-chair (Supported by Celia Lewis)

Members

Steve Beyer

Jim Crowe

Evan Davies

Caroline Eayrs

Mike Kerr

Darren Locke (supported by Graham Lowe)

Helen Matthews

Hugh Morgan

Liz Neal

Sean O'Reilly

Louise Price - attending for Jonathan Richards (supported by Graham Lowe)

Assembly Officials

John Carter

Alyson Collins

Others

Nia Lewis

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 High Morgan, ASD Strategic Action Plan Implementation Manager was welcomed to his first meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from David Allen, Ian Ferris, Margaret Gregory, Christine Griffiths, Chris Maggs, Jonathan Richards, Judith Tomlinson, Peter Woods (members) and Jeni Clarke-Moore, Ann Ferris and Sarah Watkins (officials).

2. Feedback from People First Representatives

2.1 Darren Locke thanked members for the time they spent talking about the Michael Williams paper 'A Well being and Mental Health Service Fit for Wales' at the July meeting.

3. Discussion on the changes the LDIAG would like to see made to the National Services Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales'.

3.1 Nia Lewis thanked members for the paper on the changes they would like to see made to the NSF for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. She said that focus groups were to be set up to consider the various themes in the NSF and invited a member of the LDIAG to join the focus group which would be looking at Chapter 5. Nia advised that the intention was to report back to the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Children and Young People Committee' in January 2009. In response to a query from Jim Crowe, Nia said that she was not aware of the work of the external Transitional Reference Group set up by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Action :

- To send final comments on the LDIAG paper to Jim by 20th September (members).
- To circulate the final version of the paper to members before sending onto Nia (Jim Crowe).
- LDIAG member to join the focus group considering Chapter 5 of the NSF (Jim Crowe volunteered to do this).
- To send the NSF project plan to David Tutton in DCELLS, WAG to inform the work of the Transition Group (Nia Lewis)

4. Presentation on the Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Strategic Action Plan for Wales.

4.1 Hugh Morgan outlined where matters stood on the implementation of the ASD Action Plan including : guidance to be issued to local authorities about the key actions to be taken and detailing the funding to be made available to them to take these forward; the development of awareness raising packs; the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to consider the needs of adults with ASD; and how to monitor and evaluate the ASD Action Plan. He added that the members of the Adult Task and Finish Group included Helen Matthews (who would be able to report back to the LDIAG); representatives of the National Autistic Society and the ADSS; and Sarah Watkins, John Carter and Simon Prothero (Housing), Welsh Assembly Government. It had also been agreed that representatives of the Northern Ireland Assembly could have observer status on the Group. Helen pointed out that she would be standing

down as a member of the LDIAG shortly but that until she did she would be happy to provide feedback.

5. Discussion on ‘One Wales : Connecting the Nation – The Wales Transport Strategy’.

5.1 This item was introduced by Liz Neal and a discussion followed. It was agreed that accessible transport was a key issue for people with a learning disability and that the LDIAG should support the suggestions put forward by Liz in her paper.

Action

- To write to Ieuan Wyn Jones, the Minister for Economy and Transport on the equality impact assessment (David Felce). In that letter to ask for a LDIAG representative to be included in future equality impact work (People First representatives to consider whether to put someone forward/Liz Neal to consider whether someone from Mencap could take part).
- To respond to the National Transport Plan consultation later on in the year (LDIAG).
- For one of the sub-groups to identify the key issues affecting people with a learning disability around transport and their preferred solutions - to inform the LDIAG response to the consultation (Meaningful Lives Sub-group).

5.2 Evan Davies raised concerns about proposed changes to the Blue Badge which were currently being consulted on. John Carter advised that he was a member of a Group that was considering the changes proposed.

Action

- To report back to the LDIAG on the work of the group considering the proposed changes to the Blue Badge scheme (John Carter).

6. Discussion on the United Nations ‘Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’.

6.1 This item was introduced by Jim Crowe who advised that the UK had signed up to the convention in March 2007 but had not completed the process. A discussion followed.

Action

- To discuss the convention and consider its implications at a future LDIAG meeting (Secretariat).

- To write to Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government asking what progress had been made by the Welsh Assembly Government since the Minister's letter of 8th April (Jim Crowe).

7. Sub-group Reports

7.1 Strategic Planning – Liz Neal said that the paper on Commissioning would be brought to the October LDIAG meeting.

7.2 Meaningful Lives Sub-group – Steve Beyer said that the Day Opportunities paper would be brought to the October LDIAG meeting.

7.3 Mental Health & Challenging Behaviour Sub-group – Helen Matthews said that the paper on the difficulties people with a learning disability face in accessing generic mental health services should be completed in time for the October LDIAG meeting.

8. Minutes of the last meeting (10th July 2008)

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

9. Action Log and Matters Arising

9.1 Communication Officer Post – Jim Crowe said that the Welsh Assembly Government had allocated funding for this post and that the recruitment process would start shortly.

9.2 Grant Managers for the new Advocacy Grant Scheme - John Carter said that BILD had been awarded the contract for the new Advocacy Grant Scheme. He thanked Judith Tomlinson for taking part in the Tender Evaluation Board.

9.3 Self Assessment Checklist for Monitoring Services for People with a Learning Disability and Challenging Behaviour - David Felce said that the Deputy Minister had responded to his letter on the checklist and agreed that it should be published as a LDIAG paper.

9.4 LDIAG draft Action Plan to support the 'Statement on Policy and Practice for Adults with a Learning Disability' – John Carter said that the Action Plan had been issued as a consultation document on 10th September and that consultation responses had to be received by 9th January 2009.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Advocacy Grant Scheme Application Round – A list of the successful grant applicants was circulated at the meeting. John Carter said that should any organization be unhappy with the decision made on their application then they needed to speak to BILD. If they were not satisfied with the explanation given then they could make a complaint under BILD's complaints procedure. If they remained unhappy after that process had been completed they could write to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Action

- To provide a analysis of the grant allocated to each organization (Secretariat)
- To report back on how any uncommitted resources would be used (Secretariat)

11. Date of next meeting

11.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Thursday, 23rd October 2008 at the Media Resource Centre, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells.

Alyson Collins
Secretariat to the LDIAG