

NOTE OF THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2009 AT THE MEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE, LLANDRINDOD WELLS.

PRESENT:

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

Members

Dave Allen
Steve Beyer
Evan Davies
Caroline Eayrs
Ian Ferris
Margaret Gregory
Christine Griffiths
Darren Locke (supported by Graham Lowe)
Chris Maggs
Liz Neal
Rhonwen Parry
Jonathan Richards (supported by Claire Turner)
Judith Tomlinson
Bill Thompson

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins

Others

Sam Williams – LDIAG Information Officer

1. Apologies and thanks

1.1 Apologies were received from Jim Crowe, Mike Kerr, Peter Woods and Pauline Young (members) and Jeni Clarke-Moore, Ann Ferris and Sarah Watkins (officials).

1.2 David Felce thanked Margaret Gregory for her valuable contribution to the work of the LDIAG and wished her well in her retirement.

2. Feedback from People First Representatives

2.1 People First Representatives said that when Steve Beyer was the acting co-chair at the previous meeting, at the end of every item he would ask whether everyone was happy. They said they found this helpful as it gave them the opportunity to raise any further points before the discussion moved onto the next item.

3. Presentation on ‘No-one knows – Learning Disabilities and Learning Difficulties in Prisons’ – Dr Glyn Jones.

3.1 Dr Glyn Jones gave a presentation on ‘No-one Knows – Learning Disabilities and Learning Difficulties in Prisons’ which explains what happens to people with learning disabilities and learning difficulties that get into trouble with the police and their experiences when going through the criminal justice system and in prison. Members thanked Dr Jones for his interesting and information presentation.

4. Discussion on ‘No-one Knows’

4.1 John Carter introduced this item. He said that although the Welsh Assembly Government does not have responsibility for prisons there are prisons in Wales and Local Health Boards have responsibility for the healthcare of prisoners held in those prisons. John advised that the Deputy Minister had seen the ‘No-one Knows’ Report and had asked for the LDIAG to consider its findings alongside the Action Plan. Members agreed that this was an area that they wished to consider further.

Action

- To write to the Deputy Minister asking her to write to the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to ask them what they are doing to address the concerns raised in the report (David Felce)
- To set up a sub group to discuss how LD stakeholders can assist the prison health services to address matters raised in the report (members)

5. LDIAG Action Plan – consideration of the consultation responses

5.1 This item was introduced by David Felce. Members agreed that most of the consultation responses were supportive of the Welsh Assembly Government issuing the Action Plan and broadly in favour of the current scope and content of the Action Plan. Some consultation respondees had suggested ways in which the Action Plan could be improved and members agreed that some of these should be taken on board including: reviewing targets and deadlines; including targets in every section; and expanding on the role of the external advisory group, relationships, and transition. Members were concerned that a number of the consultation respondees thought that

the Action Plan was aimed at the more able adult with a learning disability. As this was not the intent, members agreed that they needed to redraft the Action Plan in some places. Given the difficult economic climate members talked about whether they should reconsider their recommendation that expanding the availability of supported accommodation should be the new investment priority. On balance they thought that this should stay, given that carers of people with a learning disability were getting older the need for supported accommodation could only increase. Members pointed out that some additions/updates had to be made to the Action Plan in particular references to sub group papers and the Mental Capacity Act.

Action

- To draft a letter for consideration by members asking the Deputy Minister to consider the Welsh Assembly Government issuing an Action Plan once it had been revised to take into account the points detailed above (David Felce).

6. Paper on the LD/Mental Health interface

6.1 Bill Thompson said that the paper was proving difficult to write as there was no data to go on, only anecdotal evidence, and that including advice on the access of people with ASD to mental health services was problematic as this was outside the knowledge of the sub group. John Carter reminded members that Ministers had requested this piece of work given the concern voiced by some, including some LDIAG members, that people with a learning disability were experiencing difficulties in accessing mental health services. Perceived problems and suggested solutions needed to be included in the paper as well as the role of specialist services and diagnostic responsibilities.

Action

- A paper on the LD/Mental Health interface to be brought to the May LDIAG meeting (Bill Thompson/Secretariat)

7. Sub-group Reports

7.1 Strategic Planning – Liz Neal said that members of the sub-group needed to sign off the ‘Commissioning Services for People with a LD’ document and it was agreed this could be done electronically. The next item for consideration by the sub-group would be the successor Advocacy Grant Scheme.

Action

- Following sub-group agreement, to write to the Deputy Minister asking for the Welsh Assembly Government to issue the ‘Commissioning Services for People with a LD’ document as a consultation document (David Felce).

7.2 Meaningful Lives : Steve Beyer said that the amendments suggested by members had been incorporated into the Day Services paper; and that a workshop was being planned to discuss the Supported Living paper.

7.3 Health : Ian Ferris said that the sub-group was presently considering the development of a Health Passport.

7.4 Mental Health & Challenging Behaviour – David Allen advised that the Self- assessment checklist had now been printed. Having spoken to colleagues about the launch of the document it was considered that two events should be held - one in North Wales and one in South Wales and that these events should include the promotion of other initiatives. In addition it was considered that these launches should not be seen as one-off events but rather the start of discussions on learning disabilities and challenging behaviour. A discussion followed about the best time to launch the document and in particular whether this should be before or after the publication of the Action Plan if agreed by Ministers. On balance it was considered that these launches should take place sooner rather than later.

Action

- To put proposals for the launch event to the Welsh Assembly Government for consideration (David Allen)

8. LDIAG Communication Strategy

8.1 This item was introduced by David Felce. He said that following Sam Williams' appointment as LDIAG Information Officer it was appropriate to review the LDIAG's Communication Strategy and how best to promote the work of the Group. It was agreed that a new Communication Sub-group should be set up. Jim Crowe and Judith Tomlinson put their names forward for this sub group and it was agreed that the third member should be a representative from All Wales People First. Christine Griffiths offered to assist the sub-group with the production of accessible information.

Action :

- Communication sub-group to meet and prepare a Communication Strategy for the LDIAG's consideration (sub-group).
- LDIAG Newsletters to be signed off by the co-chairs.
- To reinstate 'Feedback on the LDIAG Communication Strategy' as an agenda item (Secretariat)

9. Minutes of the last meeting (29th January 2009)

9.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

10. Action Log and Matters Arising

10.1 Private and Voluntary Health Care (Wales) Regulations 2002 consultation – Members noted that a response to the consultation had not been sent.

Action

- It was agreed that the LDIAG's response should be sent into the Welsh Assembly Government event though the consultation had now closed.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 ADSS Representation on the Group – Chris Maggs said it could take some time to fill the ADSS rep's vacancy caused by Margaret Gregory's retirement and added that due to other commitments he was unable to attend the next two meetings of the group. He said that if members were content Carol Rea, Principal Officer Care Management, LD, Swansea could attend in his stead. This was agreed by members.

11.2 Health Passports – Ian Ferris said that Chris Griffiths, Consultant Nurse, ABM University Trust had offered to give a presentation to the LDIAG on Health Passports. Members agreed that this would help to inform their work.

Action

- To agree a date with Chris for his presentation (Secretariat)

11.3 Format of LDIAG meetings – Liz Neal said that the voluntary sector organisations represented on the LDIAG would like to propose changes to the format of the meeting.

Action

- To consider the proposals at a future meeting (Secretariat)

12. Date of the next meeting

12.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Thursday, 14th May 2009 at the Media Resource Centre, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells.

Alyson Collins

Secretariat to the LDIAG