

NOTE OF THE FIFTY FIRST MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 2ND JULY 2009 AT THE MEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE, LLANDRINDOD WELLS.

PRESENT:

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

Members

David Allen
Steve Beyer
Wayne Crocker (attending for Liz Neal)
Jim Crowe
Caroline Eayrs
Christine Griffiths
Darren Locke (supported by Graham Lowe)
Rhonwen Parry
Jonathan Richards (supported by Claire Turner)
Judith Tomlinson
Bill Thompson

Assembly Officials

Alyson Collins

Others

Brian Parfett – Department of Works and Pension (part of the time)
Sam Williams – LDIAG Information Officer

1. New members and apologies

1.1 Linton Gower said that Cathy Roberts had been appointed to the Group as an ADSS representative but had sent her apologies for the meeting. Cathy's appointment brings ADSS representation on the LDIAG up to its full compliment.

1.2 Apologies were received from Evan Davies, Ian Ferris, Mike Kerr, Chris Maggs, Michael Murphy, Liz Neal, Cathy Roberts, Peter Woods and Pauline Young (members) and John Carter, Jeni Clarke-Moore, Ann Ferris and Sarah Watkins (officials).

2. Feedback from members

2.1 Members had no comments to make on the previous meeting.

3. Presentation on employment for people with a learning disability – Brian Parfett, Department of Works and Pensions (DWP).

3.1 Brian Parfett gave a presentation on 'Valuing People Now : real jobs for people with learning disabilities' a DWP document published on 24 June 2009. He said that the forecast was that 400 employment opportunities would be opened up for people with a learning disability in England by the end of 2011. A discussion followed. Members were advised that although this was an England only initiative Brian had visited the WAG and had an initial discussion with Assembly officials and that further meetings would be held; and that interested parties within WAG would be meeting to consider the implications for Wales. Members thanked Brian for his helpful presentation.

Action

- To report back to the LDIAG on discussions between interested parties in the WAG and between the DWP and WAG (Secretariat)

4. Discussion on the 'Improving Specialist Disability Employment (IDEAS) initiative

4.1 Steve Beyer introduced this item and drew member's attention to the letter David Felce had received from John Griffiths AM, on the IDEAS initiative, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members expressed concern about there being only two prime contracts operating in Wales and queried whether 1 contractor could run both contracts; noted that the response had not addressed the possibility that local authorities may not wish to continue investment in this area; and queried whether WAG's Employability Branch would have an input into the selection process for the contractors. Wayne Crocker said that Mencap Cymru had recently given evidence at the Petitions Committee calling on the Assembly Commission and the Welsh Assembly Government to take a lead in employing more people with a learning disability. The Petitions Committee had decided to refer the matter to the Enterprise and Learning Committee and in the meantime to look into whether there was any existing Assembly Government policy in this area.

Action

- To respond to John Griffiths' letter of 25 April setting out the Group's continuing concerns over the proposals (David Felce).
- To write to the chair of the Enterprise and Learning Committee in support of Mencap's petition (Wayne Crocker to draft a letter for David Felce to send).

5. Paper on Learning Disability/Mental Health interface (Bill Thompson)

5.1 At the May LDIAG meeting the sub-group had been charged with drawing up an interim progress report to send to Ministers. Sub-group members said that their continuing concern was the lack of hard evidence to support the

paper and the lack of capacity to undertake any detailed work in this area. Bill reminded members that the current Adult Mental Health Strategy would expire in the next 18 months or so and that any paper produced by the sub group could feed into any review. Members were also reminded of the original paper written by Helen Matthews on this topic. A discussion followed.

Action

- A brief holding report to be sent to Ministers with an adult focus comprising a short summary of the situation (drawn from Helen's original paper) and suggestions on how to address the issues and strengthen specialist services. The prime recommendation in this paper would be for a small group (but larger than the existing one) to be tasked with doing a larger piece of work over the next 12-15 months to feed into any review of the Mental Health Strategy (Carolyn Eayrs/Rhonwen Parry/Bill Thompson).
- To seek evidence of the problems experienced by people with a learning disability in accessing mental health services including feedback from Roadshows, All Wales People First and the work Simon Stranks, Mencap Cymru is doing with the Royal College of Psychiatrists (Members).

6. Presentation on the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Jim Crowe and Darren Locke.

6.1 Jim Crowe and Darren Locke gave a presentation on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Jim advised that the UK Government had ratified the convention with a few reservations. A discussion followed. Members considered how the convention could be used for the benefit of people with a learning disability; and whether the convention could be used to challenge what was happening in Wales. Jim said that he was looking to organise an event on the UN Convention for January 2010. Members agreed that they wished to consider the matter further and in particular look at its consequences for Learning Disability policy in Wales.

Action

- To check what the UK Government's reservations are (Sam Williams)
- To proof the Policy and Practice Statement and draft Action Plan against the convention (Chris Griffiths and Rhonwen Parry)
- For an expert in the field to be invited to give a talk to the LDIAG about what the convention means for Wales (Secretariat)
- To write to the Assembly Government and ask how information from Wales is likely to be reflected in the report the UK Government is required to provide. (David Felce)

- For the LDIAG to consider what further work it would like to do in this area (Members)

7. Sub-group Reports

7.1 Strategic Planning – David Felce said that the next task for the sub-group would be looking at planning and setting priorities for the next advocacy grant round.

7.2 Meaningful Lives – Steve Beyer said that the Day Services paper had been finalised and would be sent to the Welsh Assembly Government (Steve Beyer/David Felce)

7.3 Mental Health and Challenging Behaviour – David Allen said that the Self-assessment Checklist was being launched at two events in October.

8. LDIAG Communication Strategy

8.1 Sam Williams provided the following update :

Communication sub-group - Michael Murphy has been invited to join the sub-group

Newsletter – the 2nd edition has been published and the 3rd edition is being developed

Website – Following WAG's agreement to fund the redevelopment of the website a questionnaire will be sent to stakeholders asking them what they would like the new website to look like and what information it should display. (Communication sub-group to consider responses received).

Roadshows – the Roadshows planned for 21st and 28th July have been postponed (as Yvonne Boxall, AWPf is unwell) and rescheduled for the end of September. The Roadshows are to be developed around the work of the Meaningful Lives sub group and in particular 'Friendships and relationships'.

9. Minutes of the last meeting (14th May 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 'Friendships and relationships' – Members indicated that as part of this discussion they would like to talk about parents with a learning disability and sexual health and relationships. David Felce said that there was some

research on parents with a learning disability and that he was happy to send this to anyone who wanted it.

10.2 Promoting Health Checks – Members were shown web clips that Mencap Cymru had developed to promote the annual health checks.

Action

- To e.mail any comments on the web clips to Wayne Crocker (Members).

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Wayne Crocker said that Liz Neal had recently met with the Deputy Minister to talk about health services and people with a learning disability. Liz had asked the Welsh Assembly Government to look at the recommendations in the 'Death by indifference' Report and consider what needed to be done to improve the treatment of adults with a learning disability within the health service in Wales. There was a discussion about the various strands of work being developed by the Welsh Assembly Government to improve the experience of adults with a learning disability within the NHS.

Action

- To ask the LDIAG health sub-group to consider the work being done by the Welsh Assembly Government; identify any gaps; and consider how these may be filled (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, 10th September 2009 at the Media Resource Centre, Oxford Road, Llandrindod Wells.

Alyson Collins