

**NOTE OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY
IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2004
AT RHAYADER LEISURE CENTRE**

PRESENT:

David Felce – Co-chair

Members

David Edwards (attending for Paul Lawrence & supported by Peter Wakeford)
Ian Ferris
Margaret Gregory
Ray Jacques (attending for Roger Banks)
Paul Leathwood (supported by Anna Suschitzky)
Liz Neal
Sean O'Reilly
Adrian Roper (attending for Jim Crowe)
Glayne Walker (supported by Cyril Luke)
Peter Watkins
Bryan Williams

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins
Pat Vogt

NB: The meeting finished early due to inclement weather. Not all the agenda items were reached.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Roger Banks, Jim Crowe, Evan Davies, Paul Lawrence, Chris Maggs, Ann Thomas and Stephen Wade (members) and Peter Meredith-Smith and Sarah Watkins (Assembly officials).

2. Advocacy

An update on the Advocacy Grant Scheme : Ian Darch, British Institute for Learning Disabilities

2.1 Ian Darch gave a presentation to the Group on the Advocacy Grant Scheme : the funds distributed in Year 1; the grants agreed for Year 2; and plans for Year 3. He confirmed that the Monitoring Officer, Mark Stephens was now in post. Group members asked whether the Advocacy Grant Scheme would continue beyond the three years initially agreed. John Carter advised that this was a matter for the Minister to determine but that it was important to gather evidence on benefits to help inform the decision. Ian Darch confirmed that monitoring of the projects would start in March; that

monitoring reports were required from projects by 31 May and that a report on the first year of the scheme would be available by 31st July. He stressed that this would not just be a number crunching exercise but one that reported as well on qualitative issues, outcomes and impact on people lives. He added that efforts would be made to include the views of people with a learning disability who had benefited from the grant scheme.

2.2 It was agreed that BILD would provide a list of all the organisations allocated grant to date. David Felce thanked Ian Darch for his presentation. **[Action BILD/Secretariat].**

2.3 David Felce advised that he had received a copy of a letter sent from R A Yearley, Chair, Pembrokeshire Advocacy Management Committee to the Chief Executive, Withybush Hospital about the provision of advocacy for people resettled to Pater Close, Pembrokeshire. The letter was passed to the Secretariat. **[Action: Secretariat].**

Paper from the Advocacy Sub-group about good practice in advocacy

2.4 David Felce advised that Roger Banks, the Chair of the Advocacy Sub-group had spoken to him about the work of the Sub group. Generally members of the Sub group felt that they did not have the expertise to produce a paper on good practice in advocacy and that there were others in the advocacy field who were far better placed to do so. For this reason the Sub-group had asked Annie Lewis, Independent Advocate to draw up a paper on 'Standards in Advocacy – a (personal) overview of developments in the UK so far'.

2.5 After a discussion it was agreed that:

- the Sub- group should focus on the Advocacy Grant Scheme – monitoring, outcomes and Year 3 allocations. **[Action : Advocacy Sub-group].**
- the LDIAG as a whole should look at good practice in advocacy and information sharing. It was considered that the best way to take this forward would be an all Wales Conference on advocacy that would be open to contributors from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As the outcomes from the Advocacy Grant Scheme would be fed into the Conference it was agreed that the best time for the event would be within the next 12-18 months. **[Action : LDIAG].**
- people with a learning disability should start collecting views on advocacy through local and national groups to feed into the Conference in due course. **[Action : LDIAG members].**

3. Service Principles & Service Responses – consideration of the draft consultation guidance

3.1 Members expressed views on the draft Service Principles and Service Responses guidance that had been issued for consultation on 9th January.

Generally, members were supportive of the document, considered it read well, had some good strengths and was 'going in the right direction'. Some members thought that the guidance could be improved if activities were prioritised. Others expressed concerns about the tight timescale and the availability of resources to implement.

3.2 It was agreed that the Group should prepare a response to the consultation document. Adrian Roper (and Jim Crowe – volunteered in his absence) offered to draw together a draft response from the Group. Members were asked to provide Jim with their comments by 12th March. It was agreed that once a draft response had been drawn together it would be circulated to Group members to see. **[Action : Adrian Roper/Jim Crowe & LDIAG members]**.

3.3 The Group's proposed 'Policy Statement' was discussed and whether its issue could be timed for when the final Service Principles and Service Responses guidance was issued to authorities. The relevant Sub group advised that this was not achievable as although much work has been done on the draft statement it would not be ready for the Group to consider at the April meeting as planned. Once the Policy Statement had been agreed by the Group it then had to be put to the Minister for consideration. Given the advice from the Sub group it was agreed that the draft Policy Statement should be put on the agenda for the June meeting. **[Action : Policy Statement Sub group & Secretariat]**.

4. Minutes of the Seventh Meeting (15th January 2004)

4.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Liz Neal reminded members that the Group had previously indicated that it wished to extend its Terms of Reference to include a further three key areas including modernising day services. In response, the Minister had asked that the Group define its role in each of these areas a little more clearly and agree this with Assembly officials. Liz Neal offered to draw up a draft remit on day services/employment for consideration by the Group at its May meeting. The Group agreed that it was happy for this to be done. **[Action : Liz Neal]**

6. Date of Next Meeting

6.1 Members noted that the ninth meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Wednesday, 7th April 2004 at the Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells.

Alyson Collins
Secretariat to the
Learning Disability Implementation Group