

**MINUTES OF CARERS FORUM**

**VENUE: RIVERSIDE CENTRE**

**19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005**

**12.00pm**

**PRESENT** 😊✓

Daron Perkins - Team Manager, Adult Learning Disability Team

Michelle Gormer - Team Clerk, Adult Learning Disability Team

Pat Smith - Carer Representative on the Partnership Board

Pat Ready - PCP Co-ordinator, Adult Learning Disability Team

Jan Gavin - IOW Advocacy Trust, Co-ordinator

Anne Axford - Workforce Development Officer, Learning Centre

Bill McKenzie

Rose McKenzie

Margaret Green

Roy Green

Doreen Cobbett

Stan Reeve

Marina Morey

Elizabeth Sturton

Christine Law

**APOLOGIES** 😊✗

Kathleen Munden

Penny Soley

Marie Hodge

Dave Fisher

Chris Partridge

Mr & Mrs Edwards

M Ramsden-Fisher

Daron opened the forum by thanking everyone for their attendance. Discussion held concerning the disappointment of numbers of carers attending the forum. This forum is held for all carers to attend and voice their concerns.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1) Summary of Carers Forum held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

Daron summarised July's forum for those who did not attend.

\* **Transport**



Daron informed the forum that Nigel Harris has now been appointed by the Partnership Board to look into the concerns and problems regarding the transport issues within the authority.

\* **One Card**



One nominated carer per family can now receive a One Card to use at Council leisure centres for free in recognition of their caring role. You can also get One Cards for us by service users and one for use by family members if they need to accompany the service user to activities. You can also receive a card for free entry at Newport Cinema by asking at reception when visiting the Cinema. Carer's who are under 18 can access One Cards but would need to do so via the Children's Disability Team who can be contacted at Oak House.

\* **Learning Disability Partnership Board Website**



The website address is [www.iwight.com/council/ldpb](http://www.iwight.com/council/ldpb). This is now available for all to see. Please have a look and feedback any questions or queries at the next forum.

**2) Pat Ready - on Person Centred Planning**



Pat began by reading the forum four quotes from service users from around the Country. Each quote was from service user's whose lives were planned or organised without any of their own requests or input. Person Centred Planning means that the person is at the centre of planning their life as it is important to understand what they want for themselves.

There are different ways of creating PCP's and they never finish, they just keep expanding as the person grows and develops. A circle of support is used for service users living with their families who would know them the best.

Facilitators are used to plan and organise meetings to create the PCP. It is always best for the facilitator to know the individual and for them where possible to be independent from services. Facilitators will help to find a balance and show individuals new experiences so they have a better idea of what options are available to them. Part of Pat's role as the PCP

Co-ordinator is to find independent facilitators and train them. Advocacy will also be involved if this need is identified during the PCP process.

Pat gave hand outs about the PCP process including:-

1. Get to know the person - PCP starts with getting to know the person as a unique individual by unlocking the person's gifts and qualities and by asking 'who are you?' rather than 'what is wrong with you?'
2. Describe the life they want - This helps establish the kind of life the person wants, i.e. thinking about hopes and dreams for their future or finding out things that need to be maintained or developed.
3. Figure out how to get there - This part of the PCP Process is the action planning step to help work out how the individual is going to get the life they want.

Pat then showed the different ways Person Centred Plans are created. The MAP shows a person's interests and will help get to know someone quickly. PATH can help find out and plan what the individual wants to do and shows how people plan things in their lives i.e. getting a job.

The Carers Forum was given permission to watch a PCP video life plan made with Ann Marie Wills by her mother. It showed what a difference PCP has made to Ann Marie's life. The video is essential and shows how someone who can't speak up for themselves shows their feelings.

There are forms available from your Care Manager or Ryde Social Services office if you wish for your family member to receive a PCP. Pat Ready is based at the Ryde Social Services Office on 566011 if you have any questions regarding Person Centred Plans.



## 2) Part 2 - Jan Gavin - IOW Advocacy

Jan began by reading the history of the IOW Advocacy. Before 2002 there was no specific advocacy group on the Isle of Wight until Valuing People found the funding and a group was formed to start the IOW Advocacy Trust. The trust started with Jan and one Admin worker and has grown substantially over the years. There are currently twenty-two fully trained advocates and there is training for advocates three times a year with six to eight people attending at a time.

Advocates are independent volunteers and they are not paid. They are CRB checked and references are taken before they can complete the

training. The advocates receive 16 hours of training over 6 weeks and every month they meet to discuss issues and any training they would like to take to help them develop in their role.

Depending on the person who needs support there are different types of advocacy:

- \* Self advocacy - speaking up for yourself
- \* Citizen advocacy - people who get to know someone with a learning disability so that they can help get their wishes understood and heard
- \* Short term, issue based or crisis advocacy - where people are (usually) paid to speak up for someone about a particular issue, or when they are in a crisis.

To make a referral you need to contact IOW Advocacy with the person's details. Jan will contact and then visit the person to establish whether they would benefit from having an advocate and which type of advocacy is required. Then a life map is made to help find out more about the person i.e. any issues, problems etc. and will be made in whatever form is more useful to the person. Jan will then spend time finding an advocate who will be a good match.

If anyone is interested in becoming an Advocate or knows someone who would benefit from having an Advocate then please contact Jan Gavin on:- 01983 559299



## 2) Part 3 - Ann Axford - Workforce Development

Ann Axford is based at the Councils Learning Centre whose role it is to provide training to help staff both in the council and private sector develop the necessary skills in their workplace to carry out their roles to a high standard. Ann explained to the forum the Learning Disability Award Framework (LDAF) which is the Government led initiative to train all staff that work with people with a learning disability. The Government has set a target of 50% of all staff to have completed the training by 2005. After teething difficulties with accessing courses we now have just fewer than the 50% of the workforce having completed either the LDAF or equivalent here on the island.

Over the last year service users have been working with Social Services to interview new members of staff. Ann helped develop a training day for service users to give them some training on how to effectively take part in meetings and how to interview new members of staff. Feedback from the training was very positive and Ann hopes to hold some more of these training days again sometime in the future.

Ann has been working with Westminster House to help staff and service users complete their ECDL computer training courses.

Ann also chairs the sub group from the Partnership Board called the Excellence Sub Group which considers quality assurance, advocacy and workforce development issues. She is currently looking for carers to join the group as there are no carer representatives in attendance at present. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Ann at the Learning Centre on: - 01983 823009.



### **3) Reports from the LDPB & Sub Groups**

Pat Smith explained to the forum that if carers wish to join any of the sub groups then they now will receive petrol and parking money for their journeys and will be paid £20 for every meeting attended.

#### **\* Housing**

Housing is looking at developing a new leaflet to be made clearer for people with a learning disability. They are also concentrating on making more housing available. The St Johns Road project is still currently at the planning stage.

#### **\* Day Services**

A road Show is being developed to travel round to day centre sites to service user views about what sort of services they want in future.

#### **\* Transport**

Nigel Harris has been appointed 2½ days a week by the Partnership Board to review transport issues within the authority given the concerns that have been expressed by carer's and service users.

#### **\* Health**

A resource file will be placed in the hospital and in surgeries for professionals about services for people with learning disabilities. Please check at your local GP surgery to see if the for resource file is available. Speech and Language have invested in some new equipment to help people who can't talk to communicate more effectively.

### **4) Any other business or issues to be addressed**

From the 26<sup>th</sup> September the Learning Disability team are being inspected for two weeks. On the 29<sup>th</sup> September the inspectors have asked to meet with a group of carers at HQ. Daron asked if anyone would be interested in attending. People who volunteered are:-

Pat Smith

Bill McKenzie

Christine Law

Elizabeth Sturton  
Margaret Green

There is a regional network for carers being held in Wellington House, London on the 15<sup>th</sup> November. Daron asked whether anyone was interested in attending and feeding back to the forum.

Pat Smith advised that if anyone can not attend the meetings but still have issues to raise then please do not hesitate to contact her on: - 01983 402654.

**5) Date of next Carers Forum**

The next Carers' Forum will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005, at 12.00pm and 7.00pm at the Riverside Centre. The next topic the forum will discuss will be Care Management which will be led by Daron Perkins the Team Manager of the Adult Learning Disability Team.