

**MINUTES OF CARERS FORUM**

**VENUE: RIVERSIDE CENTRE**

**21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 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

Jackie Raven - Development & Implementation Manager

Betty Edwards

Roy Green

Margaret Green

Bridget Paton

Rob Paton

Elizabeth Sturton

Bill McKenzie

Rose McKenzie

Jenny Mendel

Athur Maslen

Kelly Whiteman

Richard Carruthers

Mel Carruthers

Christine Law

Joy Mowle

Barbara Eglinton

Marie Hodge

Mary Blake

**APOLOGIES** 😊✗

Chris Partridge

Daron opened the forum by thanking everyone for there attendance.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Changes**

Pat explained she wanted a change in the minutes dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

Item 3 of the minutes for the record has since changed. It was written down in the minutes of the LDPB meeting on 8th September 2005

'Expenses - Mandy Sellers told the Board a paper was being prepared regarding paying expenses for carers attending the mental health and learning disabilities partnership boards. The South East Development Centre (SEDC) for mental health pay per person for attendance and expenses. Mandy would like to propose we do something similar and she will discuss this with Martin. This was rejected and 42p a mile was offered then reduced to 23p a mile'.

Pat explained that she feels under valued and not respected by the Partnership Board and feels she should be reimbursed for the money she spends as she feels it is exploitation of good will. Pat then handed in her notice as carer representative. The forum agreed that this was unfair. Daron will speak to Martin Johnson to organise a meeting to discuss expense payments. Bill agreed to attend the meeting with Martin Johnson as Pat did not wish to do so.

### **LD Inspection**

Daron explained that the inspection was now complete and we are currently waiting for the report which is due in the New Year.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Summary of Carers Forum held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

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

#### **Feedback from the Partnership Board**

Pat summarised the last Partnership Board.

#### **Transport**

There is a meeting being held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November at Newport Football Club to discuss transport issues and all are welcome to attend. Pat will be sending out a letter to all carers to inform them of the meeting.

#### **Jackie Raven - BILD Quality Reviews**

Jackie began by reading out a statement from a book called "My Life", she then explained to the meeting what the book was about.

Jackie reported that the Partnership Board have purchased the BILD quality review documentation that will help us to assess the quality of the

services we provide. We are initially planning to review residential care homes followed by leisure at a later date. Jackie needs a team of 12 reviewers made up of carers, service users, voluntary organisations and professional staff. The reviewers will need to attend workshops and will visit twelve service users with varying support needs in a range of residential homes.

Jackie explained that she would like two to three carers on the team of reviewers. Because of the large amount of time that is needed for training and reviewing, respite will be funded when needed.

Jackie then asked for any volunteers, and four people agreed to offer their time:-

Elizabeth Sturton  
Christine Law  
Bridget Paton  
Margaret Green

Jackie thanked everyone for listening and volunteering and explained that she will be going to the Excellence sub-group to find the final members of the team.

A large discussion was then held regarding Care Plans as carers' did not know what Care Plans were and those who did felt they were not involved enough.

### **Daron Perkins - Care Management**

Daron began by explaining how care management originated. It started in 1990 with the Community Care Act. Care Managers are another form of Social Worker but they work with adults. They must have a professional qualification such as a nursing or social work qualification.

To receive a service from the Learning Disability Team a referral must be made to the Newport Duty team. Once a referral is received it is decided which team it should be sent to for assessment. The team will then make an assessment by using the eligibility criteria. An IQ test and a social skills test will be undertaken if it is not clear that the person has a recognised learning disability. Once it has been agreed that you meet the criteria for a service a care manager will be assigned to you. Each care manager has around 70-80 service users on their caseload.

Daron explained that cases are not automatically transferred from the Children's Disability Team to the Adult Learning Disability Team as the children they work with have a variety of support needs. Transition arrangements are improving but some service users may not be eligible for support once they reach 18, although social services will always try to signpost people to where they can get help.

A large discussion was held regarding people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders who do not meet the current learning disability eligibility criteria. Daron agreed to discuss the forum's concerns with Martin Johnson and ask him to forward their concerns at the next Partnership Board. Carers' agreed that they would send a letter to Andrew Turner and Tony Blair to raise their concerns.

Daron explained what Care Plans and a Carer's Assessments are and what the benefits are of having one.

A discussion was then held regarding the rumours that Wightcare are moving some of their carers to children's services and what will happen if they do. Daron explained that he is currently discussing this with Wightcare and will report back when the position is clearer.

### **Guest Speakers for the Carers' Forum in 2006**

Suggestions were made from the forum about whom they would like to have as guest speakers at next year's forum, these were as follows:-

- ❖ Dawn Cousins - Portfolio holder for Social Services
- ❖ Teresa Day - Sexual Health Officer
- ❖ Wightcare

It was also agreed that carers would welcome a discussion about the day service modernisation agenda.

### **Dates for Carers' Forum in 2006**

23<sup>rd</sup> January 12.00pm & 7.00pm

20<sup>th</sup> March 12.00pm & 7.00pm

15<sup>th</sup> May 12.00pm & 7.00pm

17<sup>th</sup> July 12.00pm & 7.00pm

18<sup>th</sup> September 12.00pm & 7.00pm

20<sup>th</sup> November 12.00pm & 7.00pm