

MINUTES OF CARERS FORUM

VENUE: RIVERSIDE CENTRE

23RD JANUARY 2006

12.00pm

PRESENT ☺✓

Daron Perkins - Team Manager, Adult Learning Disability Team

Michelle Gormer - Team Clerk, Adult Learning Disability Team

Lisa Brown - Student Social Worker

Bill McKenzie - Carer Representative on the Partnership Board

Rose McKenzie

G Anderson

H Hamflett

Sid Owen

K Sharp

Beryl Klei

Rob Paton

Joan Wills

Barbara Eglinton

Christine Law

Elizabeth Sturton

Graham Sturton

Debbie Bowdery

APOLOGIES ☺✗

Chris Partridge

Roy Green

Margaret Green

Pat Smith

Betty Edwards

Daron opened the forum by thanking everyone for there attendance.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

BILD Quality Reviews

Daron explained again BILD to the meeting in brief. The training workshops have begun for the reviewers and will hopefully be finished by March.

Guest Speakers for the Carers' Forum 2006

Dawn Cousins the portfolio holder for Social Services has agreed to be a guest speaker. Daron will let the carers' know at the next forum when Dawn will be attending. All agreed that Bill should prepare a list of questions from the carers' to send to Dawn before the meeting.

Suggestions for guest speakers in 2006 were made in the forum. The forum decided the following speakers they would like to have over 2006 are:-

Wightcare - A discussion was held regarding the concerns over the possibility Wightcare may transfer the carers to children's services. The forum decided they would like someone to attend to explain what is likely to happen. There was a general feeling that Wightcare keep changing their carers to come in and support the service users which cause a lot of stress.

Sexual Health - New post is in place funded by the Partnership Board and training is available.

Dawn Cousins - To discuss issues concerning Social Services.

Direct Payments - A discussion was held over the confusion of Direct Payments and how it is funded and how it works.

Benefits - Everyone agreed they would like someone to attend to discuss what benefits they are entitled to.

There was a mutual feeling in the forum that facilities are not available on the Island that is stated on paper and too many promises are mad and not kept.

A discussion was held regarding Person Centred Plans. Those that had a PCP completed felt that they helped change people's life's but then promises are broken because the facilities are either unavailable or unusable.

The forum discussed what benefits can be received for service users and their families to use facilities on the Island i.e. the One Card, bowling and the cinema. All agreed that they did not know where to find out what was available. Lisa agreed to develop a pack of all of the benefits available on the Island to people with a learning disability.

A large discussion was held regarding the Hydro pool at Medina Centre and the consequences it causes when it breaks down. Also discussed was the lack of resources. Bill and Daron will discuss the best ways to take this to the Partnership Board.

AGENDA ITEMS

Report back from the Inspection

This item is deferred to the next meeting.

Modernisation of Day Services

Adult Services are currently looking at modernising day services i.e. Medina Centre, Riverside Centre etc, to help create more choice of day services on the Island. Daron explained that there is no extra money so we will need to re-evaluate what is already available and how it can be changed. A new post has been created to help modernise day services.

It was expressed that people were worried about disrupting peer groups and taking away the things that people already know and enjoy.

Other areas have modernised their day services and once the new position has been filled they will visit the areas and look at what problems they have encountered and compare day services.

Daron will invite the new member of staff to the Carers Forum in the future, once the post has been filled.

There was a discussion regarding society's perception of people with a learning disability. All agreed their lives and services have improved over the years.

Any Other Business

It was suggested a social event for carers and service users could get together for a fun day. All agreed this was a good idea and it would be beneficial for all. This will be discussed further at the next forum.

Date of Next Carers Forum

The next Carers' Forum will be on the 20th March 2006, at 12.00pm and 7.00pm at the Riverside Centre.