



# Minutes

Name of meeting	Carers Forum
Date and time	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2009
Venue	Riverside Centre
Present	Ann O'Brien Chair Karen Thornton Minutes Mrs Wills, Mr and Mrs Ley, Rob and Bridget Paton, Gordon Anderson, Joyce and Bruno Bogoni, Ken Yeomans, Sarah Talbot, Bill McKenzie, Rose Mckenzie, Christine Law, John Law, Penny Soley, Betty Edwards, Pauline Reader, Brenda Hunt, Peter Hunt, Arthur Jackman, Shirley Jackman, Dolores Okello, Mona Hodge, Veronica Elgar, Marianne Tildsley, Jan Wood.
Apologies	Mrs D Coleshort

Ann welcomed everyone and introduced herself as acting team manager in the absence of Daron.

The meeting opened with a discussion around Self directed support This is the planned local authority response to the personalisation agenda which is the Government agenda for the future delivery of social care support across all service user groups to enable service users and carers much more choice and control as to how needs are met. The original pilot had involved nine people with a learning disability. Following learning from this pilot a further pilot was launched in November 2008, this pilot had been widened to offer this opportunity across all disciplines such as mental health and older peoples teams. Ann explained the application process and provided copies of the self assessment form to those present.

AP – Ann

**If you wish to receive this information please contact Ann O'Brien on 566011**

Some carers were concerned that not all service users had a care manager at present. Ann advised that the team is currently under a lot of pressure and experiencing staff shortages. However service users without an allocated care manager can still obtain support by contacting the Adult Learning Disability Team duty officer who can be contacted 9.00a.m. – 5.00p.m. Monday to Friday on 566011.

Ann explained that the transformation agenda which has self directed support at its centre would change the way support services were

AP - Ann

delivered in the future. The aim is to provide a person centred approach and wider choice and control for the individual and their representatives. At present most traditional services are paid directly by block contracts from social services. In the future this will change, with Self Directed support the contract will be between the provider and the service user or their representative for a person centred individualised service. It will be the providers' responsibility to make its self attractive enough so that people will want to purchase the service from their budget. It is also hoped that this approach will encourage the market to develop and new opportunities will open up. People will also be able to take advantage of existing mainstream services by purchasing direct support to access this. When individuals receive their budget allocation they will be able to write a support plan detailing how they wish to spend that money – the main proviso is that the support plans meet the outcomes indicated by the shared assessment questionnaire. These outcomes reflect needs in personal care, developing independence skills, personal safety, community access and carer support There will be support available to complete this support plan. If required a broker will be able to assist. These may be independent or through the local authority. Currently both are available, as care managers can assist or independent brokers can be contacted via Jan Gavin of the Advocacy trust. A Directory of Opportunities currently available on Island is already available through Pat Ready, Person Centred planning co-ordinator.

AP – Ann

Mrs Bogoni introduced the One Island questionnaire and explained she would be meeting with Sarah Mitchell regarding this. As co chairs of the partnership board Scott Hopkins and John Philips have arranged an opportunity for parents, carers and service users to speak to the Director of social services regarding their concerns and all were encouraged to attend. Copies of the questionnaire were given out. Mrs Bogoni She encouraged everyone to write to their local counsellors to complain and raised the question of whether or not the questionnaire phrased in this way was legal.

AP - Ann

Service Manager Suzanne Wixey is starting her new job in February and as such will be line manager for the Learning Disability Team. Her position will be that of Service manager for Disability and Self Directed Support. Ann agreed to invite Suzanne to a carer's forum.

AP - Ann

A Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Service – led by Lyn Turner – will be up and running in April 2009. The service will take all safeguarding referrals – a role care managers within teams are undertaking at the moment. It is expected each team will lose a member to the service, but this will enable those workers to concentrate on the investigation and prevention of safeguarding issues across all vulnerable service user groups.

The subject of carers taking service users home after Xmas parties was raised. The Meadowbrook/Medina party started at 7.30pm with the first people being taken home at 8.30pm, and most had gone by

9.30pm. It was discussed this also occurs at the MENCAP whose party had been brought forward to 6.30pm and was not considered appropriate for 'adults'. Ann agreed to contact Mike Ackrill in contracts regarding carers and evenings out and feed back.

The future of residential homes was raised. Ann explained that from April this year all health money spent on Learning Disability Social Care will be transferred to the local authority but this money will remain ring fenced to learning disability. All residential homes on the Island are privately run, some lease the property the service is delivered in. Therefore private individuals could decide to cease trading at anytime once they have fulfilled their contractual notice period. The Local Authority was therefore unable to guarantee a home for life for an individual however once they had accepted funding responsibility this would remain in place so that the local authority would continue to work in a person centred way to ensure best quality outcomes for the individuals concerned.

Placement in residential homes is now not a first choice for care managers as it is considered a more valued option for service users service users to be tenants with appropriate support packages.

The question was raised as to any expansion of day services as at present they are all full up. Ann advised that she was aware of this situation as was working closely with colleagues in health to find a way forward for this. Ann agreed to agreed to provide more information when it becomes available.

A request was made for the names and positions of the management structure. Agreed to go send out with the minutes.

**Unable too do this as structure has recently changed again – to bring to next meeting**

**Next meeting 23/3/2009**