

# Minutes of the Board of the Learning Disability Partnership

6<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Present

Joanna Tubb (Chair)  
Rob Barber  
Sheridan Dodsworth  
Marie O'Sullivan  
Amy Hodson  
Coralie Cross – Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum

Janet Collins  
John Gurney  
James Bell  
Helen Bromley  
Kerry Gibson  
Mick Skipworth

## Apologies

Justin Hackney  
Richard Eccles

 <p>Day Centre</p>	<p><b>1. Introductions and Welcomes</b> Joanna welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><b>2. Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Day support – Mick has spoken to Gina Thomson. An officer in the Service Development will be the lead for this work. Joanna said that Shaun Sandal, Day Opportunities Manager, is retiring and his post is being recruited to. There may be opportunities for co-production the developments of in house day services, but we will need to wait to find out how that will be done.</li><li>• Talking Books – A session has been arranged for 18 June for Justin to see how the Talking Books scheme works. Helen would also like to attend. Mick will invite other LCC staff to attend, as the session will work better if more people are there.</li><li>• National Children's and Adult Services Conference – we need to get the dates for the 2019 Conference so that Marie can check if anyone from the partnership is able to attend.</li><li>• Easy Read Information (Complaints Policy and Volunteer Guidance) –Colin Hopkirk and people who use Tess services did a lot of work putting an easy read complaints leaflet together. These now need sharing with Justin and the Board.</li></ul>
	
	
	



### 3. Support for Family Carers

- Mick outlined the things carers have told him are important.
- The group talked about getting the views of carers – Amy suggested a survey, but it was felt that carers are sometimes inundated.
- The important thing is helping families to make the connections with the support they themselves. Sometimes carers say they want a contact to talk to, maybe a link person.



#### Engaging with Carers

- Coralie said, the experience of Lincolnshire Parent Carers Forum (LPCF) is that carers' preferences are wide ranging; some just want to use Facebook, some work full time and cannot come to meetings. We need a variety of types of contact and meetings also.
- Janet commented that if things are going well and support is good there is less need for groups.
- Coralie said fewer people are attending meetings – the downside of this is that the opportunity to hear from carers is lost. LPCF have found that one way of engaging with carers has been the offer of a Max card as part of membership. This is a discount card for families of children with additional needs giving free or discounted admission to venues. There have been issues in the roll out of the card – there have been many questions from carers and a decision has been made not to limit the age of the young person to 18 years. Coralie extended an invitation to LPCF's AGM on Monday 10th June 2019.



#### Carers Support

- Discussed whether the Carers Emergency Response service (CERS) meets the needs of the carers of people with a learning disability. Joanna feels these are not detailed enough and need to be more specific to the individual. The plan could be, for instance, that another family member steps in and provides the continuity the person needs, especially important for people with autism. Amy said her mother has a list of things needed in an emergency.
- Contingency Planning needs to be detailed. We could ask Malcom Ryan at Carers FIRST to work with us. The group felt this would be a valuable piece of work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coralie said her carer's assessment was very detailed, and it is worth carers challenging this if they feel it isn't adequate.</li> <li>• It was also felt that the Carers Service does need to be tailored more to the needs of carers of people with a learning and autism. It was agreed that a carers' working group will look at this.</li> <li>• Another issue is whether the learning and training needs of carers are being met; such as responses to challenging behaviour. This can be beneficial where a family's experiences and those of the school are different and training and learning can help with the family's awareness of where a problem lies.</li> <li>• James commented that in his experience some schools provide good support for young people with additional needs, others less so.</li> <li>• Coralie said LPCF have just developed an engagement strategy – linked with the Engagement Offer.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Other sources of support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rob said it would be worth knowing where steering groups are already in place, (for example Carers First) so that we ensure the needs of carers/people with learning disabilities are being represented in wider forums, as it is not always necessary to set up a new group.</li> <li>• Joanna felt we need to be aware of what is going on already – in places like LPFT, the Learning Disability Hubs and services listed in the Family Services Directory. Coralie said LPCF also has a list of groups. Mick and colleagues in the Commissioning Team will do some initial research – what is already there, a list of contacts.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>4. Employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mick went through the list of employment-related projects. Sheridan said that supported internships are in place and are being rolled out to schools. Mick will include this in the project plan.</li> <li>• Janet felt that volunteering needs to be separated out on the plan.</li> <li>• The 'Getting Involved' event at Lincoln College on 27 June may generate some interest in particular (supported) employment opportunities that the LDP could be involved in?? Are details about the STEP project going to be promoted at the event??</li> </ul>



## 5. Health and Wellbeing

- Mick gave some of the main messages from the engagement work done last year.
- The group felt some of the points did not fit with the Health and Wellbeing agenda – transport for instance, and it was not clear what some of the concerns raised actually referred to.
- Mick explained that these discussions were very inclusive and time was spent listening to the things people felt were important. The conversations ranged over a wider area.



### Service Providers

- Joanna feels service providers are sometimes not always creative in their thinking. There may be other sources of support freely available in the community, but there is sometimes an assumption that more staff hours are needed. Mick said this was one of the main conclusions from the meetings – and the Health and Wellbeing offer in Public Health might be one option – the One You service and the Wellbeing Service and provide extra support. We need to know what else is available.
- Marie said the Voices for All meetings around the county are a way of getting to know what is available.
- The meeting discussed whether service providers meet their obligations to help people to access community support and get involved in things like the Partnership. It would be useful to review what is currently included in the contract documents. Sheridan said these requirements are built into the Children's contracts and Mick will get a copy of these.
- James said he felt sorry for people who said they were unhappy about things in their lives. Mick said that the comments just showed what needed to change, but many people said they were happy and had full lives.
- Joanna, Mick and Justin are meeting with Samantha Neal, Chief Commissioning Officer in Public Health, to understand how the Health and Wellbeing offer can benefit people who use Adult Care and Community Wellbeing services.



## 6. Other business

- Marie said the abuses revealed at Whorlton Hall in County Durham by BBC Panorama had been the subject of a lot of discussion and concern at the Voices for All meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

James commented that he found it hard to understand why people did these things and they should be prevented from working in care services.

Marie has also asked Richard Eccles if the Partnership can have regular updates about the Transforming Care programme.

Joanna said she understood the worries expressed. It is important to note that some of the people coming within the Transforming Care programme are detained under Ministry of Justice rules, others are people detained under the Mental Health Act. In Lincolnshire a lot of resources are in place for the care and treatment of people to prevent the need for admission to a specialist hospital. Some of the people detained have autism, not a learning disability and some are not known to Adult Services.

Joanna said that the worry is that this type of abuse need not be confined to hospitals and could be happening in other places.

- Rob will be taking a year's sabbatical from 30<sup>th</sup> June and Mick will be leaving his job with LCC on the same day. Helen Bromley will be the lead contact for the Learning Disability Partnership in Adult Care and Community Wellbeing.



### Next Meeting:

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 2 – 4pm in the Newland Room at County Offices, Lincoln**