



**Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Learning Disability Partnership Board Minutes
Held on 18th August 2010
At: Falsgrave Road Community Centre, Scarborough**

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1. Introduction

Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting.

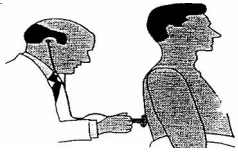


2. What we talked about at the last meeting

Shirley Robinson should have been recorded as Stewart Finney's support worker. The minutes were then agreed.

3. Things we have done since the last meeting

Page 3 – Acute Liaison Nurse.



The Health Task Group are asking what has happened to the £25,000 that the PCT had allocated for an Acute Liaison Nurse. They have not had a clear answer yet.

Page 3 – Funding.



Anna explained that the Learning Disabilities Development Fund money had been cut across the whole County. This meant the local funding was also less for this year. It is likely it would be less next year as well.

Page 4 – Pedestrian Crossing by Brookleigh

The Board felt the crossing was now being used properly and it was helpful for local people.

Page 6 – Person Centred Planning



Anna explained that Elizabeth White had now left her post as co-ordinator of the Team, and that Jemma Askew was leaving at the end of August. Mel Trotter will continue in the part time facilitators post until the end of December. After this Person Centred work will continue but without a dedicated team.

George said that Mel Trotter was a valuable resource as Autism Officer as well, and hoped this would not be affected at the end of December.

Helen was concerned that the dedicated Person Centred Planning posts were disappearing. Other Board members shared the concerns. It was said it was important that people understand Person Centred approaches as well as actual planning with people.

Page 9 – Partners Day

Michael said he felt the day had gone very well and had been well attended. Lynne was concerned that the Richard Sunley's initial commitment to signing up to the Mencap Charter, needed further support to make changes happen. Stephen from National Mencap agreed. The Board thanked the group who had been involved with organising the day, especially John and Lynne.



Agreed: Chairs of the Board to write to Richard Sunley, to welcome his pledge and to offer further support to make improvements happen.

Introductions

The co-chairs said they were sorry they had forgotten to ask people to say who they were. Everyone did this and new people were welcomed. Stephen John was welcomed as the new Chair of the Health Task Group.

4. Speak Up Reps Reports

Helen shared a list of dates showing all of the meetings that the Speak up reps and the co-chair had been involved with in the last two months. These included Task Groups, Training, Forums, County Co-ordinating Group and Partners Day.

Lindsay said she had attended some of these meetings and had found the training for helping people to be involved in meetings very useful. Lindsay told the Board about the new Speak up e mail address which is speakupreps@yahoo.co.uk. She said there was also a survey about Speak up on www.uchooseswr.com

Fiona could not be at the Board meeting. Her report was read. It included talking about her role in planning and evaluating the Partners Day.



Maria has been assisting in Whitby as Anthea has been unwell. The Board said that they were pleased Maria had been involved with co-chairing the County Group meetings.

Michael commented on the level of the involvement of the present Speak up reps in the work of the Board, and felt their report showed this clearly.

5. Carers Reps Report

George reported that the carers had had a lot of discussions about the new County Board. There are also a lot of questions about the role of the current task groups. George suggested that Task Groups needed to focus on the work that can be completed before the end of the year.

6. Provider Forum Report

Lesley reported that there had been a lot of people at the last Forum. The Providers had looked at the Department of Health's guidance for Providers about Person Centred Planning, and talked about how to use different tools. She said the providers understood the importance of working in Person Centred ways.

The Forum also discussed the future of the Board, and the work that has been achieved over past years.

COFFEE BREAK

7. North Yorkshire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

Anna said that Anne Marie Lubanski had sent out a letter explaining that the consultation on a future Board was not now happening, and that from January 2011 there would be a single North Yorkshire Board.

Anna used a presentation from Anne Marie to explain the reasons for this change. Anna talked about the work the local Task Group had done which had been set up. Their comments were shared to the Board members and will be sent to Anne Marie.

The Task Group have called their notes "Initial Consultation about the Development of a County Partnership Board."

Anna said that the final agreement on how the new Board will work will be made on 20th November, after the four local Boards have been able to make their comments.

Anna invited people to consider the new “Terms of Reference for the County Board” which had been sent out last week. Paper copies were made available. People were invited to talk in small groups, to write down their comments and then share the key points with everybody.



All the comments made will be put together. Anna said that the questions that people were asking would be passed to Joss Harbron. She would be invited to come to the next Board meeting in Filey to answer them

Action: John and Anna to put everybody’s questions together and pass onto Joss and Anne Marie.



LUNCH BREAK

Anna suggested that the agenda is changed for the rest of the day. She said that the Carers reps had already met and talked about ways of including family carers in the North Yorkshire Board. Anna has also spoken at the Speak up Forum about ways of involving self advocates.



Anna invited people to work in small groups to discuss “how to make the local area groups work.”

The groups were invited to write down their comments and to tell everyone about their most important points. All of the comments and questions will be put together and passed to Joss and Anne Marie.

Action –

- 1. John and Anna to put all the comments together, highlighting the most important ones, and pass these to Joss and Anne Marie**
- 2. Anna to ask Joss to attend the next Scarborough Whitby Ryedale Partnership Board meeting to update on answers to the questions**
- 3. Anna to ask Joss to come to the December Board meeting to explain what was agreed at the November meeting of the County co-ordinating group.**



8. Anything Else

- The Valuing Older Carers Document is now available on the Department of Health web site.
- There is an Autism Conference in York on 17th September aimed at family carers and professionals, details from Gillian.
- Inclusion North are holding a members day on 22nd October. There are 5 places allocated to member organisations. Anna suggested that a group of speak up reps, support workers and carers attend. Stewart said he was keen to go though he was not a speak up rep. Agreed that Jean Riley would go to represent carers.

Action: Helen Beevers will confirm which 5 people are going, and inform Inclusion north.

- George asked a question about definitions in relation to the term “learning disability.” Anna explained how Adults and Community Services had a responsibility to assess “vulnerable adults.” This might be a different group of people from some of those who are included in the definitions used when talking about Learning Disability Boards. Anna offered to discuss individual situations at a different time.
- Lynne explained that on 29th September there was a chance for carers and family members to meet with Tracey Wright at Mencap Brookleigh and discuss the progress the hospital is making with supporting people with learning disabilities.
- Lynne explained from the 10th September she was setting up a drop in service at Elders Street for people who wanted information about sexual health matters.



Next Board Meeting is on Wednesday 20th October at The Evron Centre, Filey



Initial consultation about the Development of a County Partnership Board

1. What would be good about this idea

- Stronger links with Health, Housing, Transitions etc at a strategic level
- Local influence into a strategic level
- A County Board supports full participation from Senior Managers at County Hall level “the Decision Makers”.
- Decisions can be made at the County Board
- The County Board will encourage more strategic thinking at a local level.

2. What would you be worried about

- What is the role of the area group – how will it link to the County Board – How can it be useful – What “power” will it have.
- Will reps still get paid
- How will people be supported to participate
- How will wider stakeholders be involved
- Will the County Board get representation at senior level from statutory services eg. Assistant Director NYCC/Director PCT
- How will we know money is allocated fairly
- Can a County Board reflect the needs/differences of the 4 areas
- How will we get to the meetings
- Who will attend the meetings – how many carers reps and Speak-up reps
- Will there be funding for carers to attend the meetings
- How much time will it take to participate

3. How can you support us to achieve this new way of working

- Speak-up reps would only be able to be included if they are properly resourced with support and expenses.

4. What else should we include to make sure we achieve the aims of Valuing People Now in North Yorkshire

- The roles of the task groups at local and County level
- The role of the forums
- Factoring in the costs of getting meaningful involvement from people who have learning disabilities and their carers.
- Speak-up reps and carer reps will need to have the means of consulting with the people that they represent and have a mandate from them. This has time and resource implications.

**Comments from Scarborough Whitby Ryedale Learning Disabilities
Partnership Board on Wednesday 18th August
About the Revised Terms of Reference**

Anna invited people to consider the new “Terms of Reference for the County Board” which had been sent out last week. Paper copies were made available. People were invited to talk in small groups on their tables, to write down their comments and then share the key points with the whole Board.

All the comments are put together here. Anna said that the questions that people were asking would be passed to Joss Harbron. She would be invited to come to the next Board meeting in Filey to answer them.

Table one

Things which are very good;

- An overall group at a strategic level is good
- This group will be able to provide direction across all statutory services in a joined up way with clear measurable targets
- The emphasise on user and carer representatives is good

Things which are not so good;

- It is difficult to understand how a “County wide Task Group” can make things happen in each area.
- Concerns about relationships between the County Board and Local Area Group.
- There should be an independent co-chair for the Board.

Note;

1. On page 3 the statement is unclear and apparently “over” inclusive.
2. Who will be the Health reps after changes to the PCT.?

Table two

Comments;

- Who will be health reps after the PCTs change
- Targets need to include Quality
- Leadership – needs to be an independent chair, not seen to be steam rolling an agenda
- Aim for same service everywhere – needs to be based on quality not same “poor” service everywhere.
- People attending Board are expected to be decision makers
- Carers rep – who and how selected?
- Speak up reps – who and how selected?
- Provider Rep – who and how selected?
- Area Groups – how will they be supported to be effective
- North Yorkshire Carers Forum – this needs a fresh start, SWR carers do not feel involved at present

Table Three

Negative points;

- Quantity versus quality
- Closed Partnership Board means “exclusive” membership, with no progression of new members

Issues that need to be taken into account;

- Need to recognise the size of the area involved
- Limited membership of the new Board
- VPN roles and the expertise that is attached to them will be axed

Positive points;

- Best practice can be shared

Table Four

Comments;

- Lack of openness of meeting
- Concern that on page 3 the inclusion criteria is potentially discriminative/derogatory to people
- Risk of group focussing on “areas” agenda and not being objective
- Page 5 – “commissioning” – historically for health – Learning Disability services are not properly commissioned so they are not equitable/fair. Also about how this is accountable to people with a learning disability and measurable to a set of “National Standards”.
- Page 17 – Feels that the whole process is being governed/directed by services and is outside of the true values of “Valuing People Now” which is supposed to place an emphasise on “Personalisation.”
- Page 6 – The issues of “transition” moving on is very generalised and so leaves room for interpretation and manipulation by services not to meet the “personalisation” agenda.
- Money – will there be open accounting and what systems are there to ensure “objective” decision making and how will this be reported on?
- Information – is this going to be accessible to people who are not connected to the web?

Table Five

Questions;

- Why does local Task Group have to stop?
- Will we have a local Area Group?
- How often will the Local Area Group meet?
- Who will fund the Self Advocate Forums?
- Will Speak Up reps be paid?
- Will there be a budget for self Advocates to get to County Meetings?

Comments;

- Local Area Group needs to be more of a Working Group
- Need to ensure that Person Centred Approach is maintained
- Keep sight of Valuing People Now.

Table Six

Questions:

- Who will decide which people will go to Countywide group? (eg people with a learning disability and family carers.)
- How will the countywide group make sure people are invited from every area? And supported to get there?
- How will we make services fair across an area so big and so different?
- Will funding bids have to be county wide?
- How will quality be measured?

Table Seven

Comments;

- The County Partnership Board should ensure less duplication however there is a need to ensure that local goals are met.
- Should be better use of “ever decreasing” pots of money.
- Better/improved accountability
- Need to get the balance right between the local needs and the County Hall needs. Needs to be equal representation.
- Needs to be full representation from all providers truly representing all services.

Question;

- The local area lead champion/reps. Who/how will this be nominated and agreed?

**Comments from Scarborough Whitby Ryedale Learning Disabilities
Partnership Board on Wednesday 18th August
About “How to Make the Area Groups Work”**

Anna invited people to work in small groups to discuss **“how to make the local area groups work.”**

The groups were invited to write down their comments and to tell everyone about their most important points. All of the comments and questions will be put together and passed to Joss Harbron and Anne Marie Lubanski. The most important ones are in bold.

Group one – What do we need to make the Local Area Groups Work

- **We need to feel important**
- **People need to be interested to come**
- **Good communication between different groups**
- **We need to have resources (money) to assist with travel, support and agree these will be different for each area**
- **Speak-up and Carers Forums need to ask what people want locally**
- **Need to have a system for challenging the big board with issues like not having an independent chair**
- **It needs to be a doing group**
- We need to know that we can make things change for the better – not just be told what to do
- Commitment is important, and for it to be beyond just coming to meetings.
- Local knowledge about what is going on
- Regular meetings
- New role – checking that the North Yorkshire Partnership Board is making a difference.
- Administrative support at the meetings, before the meetings and after the meetings.

Group Two - What do we need to make the Local Area Groups Work

- **Understanding protocol for relationship between Area Groups and North Yorkshire Board**
- **If Area Groups are being asked to perform tasks of any description, they need to be resourced (eg evaluation)**
- **Needs a flow of timely information before decisions are made**
- **Timing of meetings needs to be right – local Area Groups to meet after receipt of papers, but before North Yorkshire Partnership Board.**
- Degree of autonomy – this needs to be defined? What is the freedom for the Area Group to act?
- Local Area Groups to have an open attendance
- Admin support available (to be independent?)
- Budget so as to be able to hold meetings
- Need to retain ownership of local groups
- To be inclusive and accessible for self advocates and carers, including access to public transport.
- Clarity of functioning of the task/work groups – needs to be realistic about information available and travel to meetings
- Chair of North Yorkshire Partnership Board should not be an employee or member of the County Council.
- Consultation from the outset (as per Valuing People Now.)
- Area Groups should be able to submit for the agenda for the Partnership Board.
- Area Groups to nominate self advocates/family carers to be representatives at the County Group.
- Communication in ALL directions between Board and Area Groups – and carers/self advocates.

Group Three - What do we need to make the Local Area Groups Work

- **Strong effective support for self advocates at a local level. This needs people and resources. Communication needs to be in a form that everyone understands. Easy Read etc**
- **Don't lose the involvement of skilled, experienced and knowledgeable local people.**
- **Develop a FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) – put this on websites with replies.**
- Area Groups need good representation from informed people
- Need to be clear about what local groups are expected to do.
- Need to understand how Local Area Groups will fit in with County Partnership Board.
- Adequate support for the Local Area Groups (administrator/co-coordinator). Need for a separate lead role for the Area Group – who will this be?
- Next SWR Board Meeting to include on the agenda – Understanding the New Board and How will it work?

Group Four - What do we need to make the Local Area Groups Work

- **Need good “advocacy” members that are strong enough to challenge the “County” wide groups decisions and give “real” views**
- **Membership of group to be representative of local need and should be focussed on the “personalisation” agenda, and led by people with a learning disability and their supporters.**
- **Some autonomy to challenge “local” services without having to go via “the Centre” and ensure local issues can be challenged in a timely manner.**
- **“The Centre” to clearly listen to and champion on behalf of people with a learning disability and to be objective with regards to services. There is a Risk of Conflicts of Interests with the Chair’s role.**
- **Clarity about the purpose of the Local Area Group – its criteria, membership and how it influences the wider group.**
- **Will there be money to ensure people can attend the Local Area Group – budget for room bookings etc?**
- **Continuation of local “task groups” to ensure local needs are highlighted to “the Centre”.**
- **Investment in carers and self advocates – for training and effective support**
- **Clear guidance from “the Centre” as to what are the priorities for working groups and targets for measuring progress against.**
- **Local Area Group and North Yorkshire Partnership Board needs to be an “open” meeting**