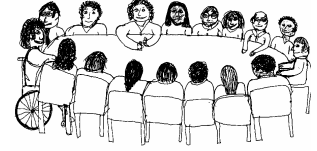




Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Learning
Disability Partnership Board



Quality Task Group

2nd March 2010

Present

Helen Fortnum
Emma Bowker
John Lawson
George McIntyre
Helen Beevers

Apologies

Anna Nockles
Maria Kennedy
Heather Cunningham

Minutes and Matters Arising

Membership of the group

George explained he had not had any contact from Annette Enzor or Steve Peacock. John said he was at the meeting on behalf of Anna Nockles.

Learning Disabilities Development Fund

Emma said she was concerned that the money for the Board had reduced for the next year. George suggested that Emma, on behalf of the Speak up Reps wrote a letter to say how concerned they were. This would be sent to Derek Law (Director Adult and Community Services) and Anne-Marie Lebanski (Assistant Director with responsibility for Learning Disabilities). George offered to help with this letter if needed. Agreed there might be future cuts in spending for the Board in future years.

Action – Emma to write a letter

Person Centred Planning

Emma is still arranging to meet with Dr Bennett.

LD Awareness Training

John explained how the training was now being provided. Helen will contact Di Burlingham about Advocacy alliance using some of the training. George suggested local businesses would benefit from the training. John will talk to Supported Employment about this.

Action – John to follow up

Health Facilitator Post

George has contacted Annette Enzor about Health Facilitation in the area and what is happening in the future. George will talk to Annette again.

Action – George to follow up

uchooseswr Website

John explained what was happening with the website. Ian is aware there is less money for expenses next year. Ian and Pete continue to try and improve the site. George said it was helpful when minutes were put on the site promptly, but understood delays were often because Task Groups were slow writing minutes

Future work of Quality Task Group

Jenny Stamford will attend the May meeting and share some of the work she has been doing on evaluations

Work of Carers' Resource

As agreed at last meeting Carers Resource will be attending in May to talk about the work they have been involved with

Action – George to talk with Elizabeth McPherson

Learning Disability Awareness Training

It was agreed to provisionally book an evaluation of the training in September.

Task Groups

Task Group Chairs are aware of the request for a report before the July meeting. George said it was important to know what the focus of the Forums was as well, so that there would also be reports from the Speak up Forum and Carers Forum.

Quality Review of Speak up Support

Helen Beevers reported on the work the Advocacy Alliance have been doing in providing support for the Speak up reps and in organising the Speak up forums. Helen explained how the amount of support had grown since 2004, with more staff hours being used now to support more forums and support for the co-chair. Helen explained how the service had been evaluated before in 2007 and one of the plans was to support Speak up reps to progress on to being part of task groups. This had been possible but there were a lot of questions for task groups about they manage to make this happen.

Helen explained the new reps had been selected this time following an interview and a presentation. This had meant the reps had not been elected unlike previous years.

Helen said that at Speak up does not provide support for SUNNY, though Advocacy Alliance had done before. Helen said that her own hours with Advocacy alliance would be reduced from April. Helen explained the different types of support the staff provided – this was on different tasks – and was weekly, monthly, bi-monthly and annually. So there were a lot of different parts of the job to fit in.

Helen explained that after each Speak up Forums a self evaluation was completed. This had meant the following areas had been thought about to improve at Forums;

Having better publicity

Appropriate venues to meet

Having a warm up activity to help with a staggered start to meeting

Checking with speakers about the language they are using

Having a shorter lunch break

Using different approaches to presentations

Having the reps more involved with leading and running the days.

George said that overall it was felt Speak Up support provided a good service to the people they worked with

The Task Group discussed the following areas in trying to look at how the quality of the Speak up support and the reps work could be improved;

1. How the Reps present information to the Partnership Board could be improved. It was felt different ways of presenting information would help, and that a record of what was presented was important. Helen said that some reps do prefer to read information out.
2. How Task Group Chairs can support people to be co-chairs and participate in Task Groups. More work is needed on this area.
3. How to involve more people in the forums and how to engage support workers in enabling people to attend. It was agreed it was important to do this. Suggestion was that Advocacy would invite key support people to an open meeting to look at ways of assisting people locally to get to Forums.

4. How it is possible to review the quality of the work the reps are doing. It was suggested that Advocacy consider developing an “appraisal” system for reps. This would involve present reps looking at the key parts of their role. New reps would then talk about the area they want to develop in and new skills to learn. The support workers could then check with people every 3-4 months how they felt they were doing.
5. How long do reps carry on for. Helen felt there could be more flexibility with how long reps are involved for – some could be longer and some shorter.

Actions

1. **Helen to consider how Speak up support can address the points above.**
2. **George will raise the points made with the Task Group Chairs and the Partnership Board where appropriate**
3. **Helen will report back to the Quality Task Group later in the year, with an update in September.**

Next Meetings

11th May 10 – 12 at North Yorkshire House Room 106 booked – Carers’ Resource and Jenny Stamford

6th July – Person Centred Planning – Task Group Evaluations should be received

September Learning Disability Awareness Training and discuss task group evaluations, update form Speak up support

Discussion around evaluation of statutory services (ACS & Health) to be held at a future date.

JL 3.3.10