Hampshire Carers Partnership (also reporting to the Learning Disability Partnership (LDP)

Carers LD Working Group

Action Notes

Date: Wednesday 16th March 2022

Time: 2.00 – 3.45pm

Method: Zoom

Present 19

Apologies 4

The following also expressed an interest in joining the group 5

*Administration Note: to access any new Zoom meeting you need to find the meeting invitation for that day and click on the link. Old links do not work.*

*Where an abbreviation is used for the first time in the text, it is in bold.*

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|  | **Welcome, Apologies, Introductions**  AM welcomed everyone to this initial meeting. AM explained that she will be Chairing the meeting today but, as per the agenda, there will be an opportunity today to discuss nominating and agreeing a permanent Chair going forward.  Everyone was asked to introduce themselves.  Unfortunately, SO, who was going to attend this meeting is on sick leave today, but AMC is attending for the first 30mins of the meeting, in his place. JN, and SG, are also off today. JN and Stuart have agreed that either one or both of them will attend this meeting in future, for all or part of the meetings, whichever is decided by the membership (see later notes under Membership). AL is attending today to represent **Adults’ Health and Care (AHC),** a department of Hampshire County Council. |  |
|  | **Presentations**   * **The Journey so Far** – AL talked through the presentation, which explained the **(Learning Disability Partnership)** **LDP** Review and how the **(Local Implementation Groups)** **LIGS** finished and the Carers LD Working Group came to be created. This presentation also included the other LD Working Groups. The Working Group titles are taken from the LD Plan chapters. The Social Care Working Group has had its inaugural meeting; the Communications group and the Complex Needs group are meeting for the first time in April. The “You Said, We Did” tool has been developed.      * AM talked through the structure of the **Hampshire Carers Partnership (HCP)** and how this group fits with the LDP**.** This structure also shows the HCP **Task and Finish Working Groups (TFGs)**. The purpose of these groups is to consider a specific piece of work, make recommendations to the **HCP Board (HCPB)** and then close. There is also a Carers Subgroup, which is an open forum for carers to have a safe space to be able to discuss and share concerns and information. The HCP is supported by **Carers Together (CT),** a carer-led charity, established in 1996 to represent unpaid carers; all Trustees are either carers or former carers. Any carer is welcome to join. * The Hampshire LDP was set up many years ago and led by AHC. There was one Hampshire LDP Board, and given that Hampshire is so large, 5 LIGS were created, to maximize the membership and to enable more local issues to be raised and discussed. AHC is hoping that in the future the LDP will move away from AHC and become more independent. |  |
|  | **Draft TOR/Discussion:**  These are draft and need members’ approval    **How often to meet** – the members agreed to meet every second Tuesday of each month, 1.30-3.00pm, online until further notice. Carers Together has recently installed equipment to enable it to host hybrid meetings, where some attendees could meet in person, and others can join online; HCC also have this facility in some offices, which could be an alternative way of meeting. *(please note changes needed post meeting for the next meeting)*    **Membership** – lots of discussion on membership. Currently there are 22 carers who have expressed an interest in being part of this group. Need to ensure that we welcome as many people as want to join the group, without it being so large that it cannot be effective. Members need to be committed to attending meetings; reading the notes and wanting to move forward. It is also essential to ensure we have reps from each area of Hampshire. It was suggested, as there were 5 LIGs, there should be a min 2/max 3 carers reps from each LIG area, plus 2/3 reps, who could have different interests. Members felt it was also important to have a diverse group of carers, and their needs, as well as diverse geographical areas. This group will report to the HCPB, whilst sharing information with the LDPB. The notes of this meeting could be circulated wider than those who attend the meeting; this way the information could be disseminated further than just those attendees of the group.  Social media could also be used to good effect to circulate information.  A number of members expressed concerns about not knowing how to get information and what resources are available; how do people get signposted? There are also difficulties for those who do not use the internet to gain information. One suggestion was that people could join one of the HCP TFGs, as there are discussions about how to improve this. Also people can nominate themselves for membership of the LDP Working Groups.  Members were positive about asking SO and/or JN to attend the meetings; some felt they should be invited for part of the meeting, to allow for carers to have frank and open discussions, whilst still having the opportunity to have direct discussions with them, and others suggested they should come for all the meeting. A final decision was not made.  Members were keen to hold AHC to account; the “You Said, We Did” tool may aid this.  ACTION 3.1: Members to consider the above points for discussions at the next meeting  **Expenses** - after discussion members agreed that they would prefer to claim their expenses through Carers Together, rather than claiming directly from AHC. There is a budget for this meeting, provided by AHC, so if Carer Together pays the expenses, it will be easier to monitor the budget.  ACTION 3.2: AM to check the expenses policy and confirm how this can be achieved  **Topics for discussion** – the following was suggested:   * **Council Tax:** people with LD who are living in Supported Living are entitled to exemption from paying Council Tax. Now the Government have said people who pay Council Tax can claim £150 back, to help with the increasing costs of utilities, it is not clear how this will impact, if you do not pay Council Tax. A member has asked the local council and just been told to “keep an eye on the website.” * **Family support for those living in care or with paid support:** the amount of unacknowledged family support provided to support a loved one. * **Care Planning and Carers Assessments –** given that AHC have not enacted the Care Act easements, they have remained duty bound to ensure all assessed needs are met, through the period of the pandemic. It was acknowledged this is an issue, but this group needs to be careful not to overlap with the work of the Carers Assessments TFG. * **LD Plan chapters and LDPB:** to discuss the topics being raised at the LDPB so that this group can input. * **Market Position Statements** * **Reviews**     **Nominations for working groups** – people can nominate themselves to sit on the LDP working groups and/or the HCP TFGs but they also need to sit on this Carers LD Working Group, so that information can flow between the groups. No previous experience is necessary.  ACTION 3.3: Contact JH if members would like to be part of any of the groups (see slides above for the different groups)  **Electing a Chair** – Nominations can be made for the Chair of this meeting. If there is more than one nomination, the nominees will be asked to write a paragraph on *what skills and talents could you bring to the role of Chair for the Carers LD Working Group, and what appeals to you about standing for election?* Members agreed the Chair needed to be confident and someone who understands Hampshire issues.  One nomination was made: DH, who agreed to be nominated. DH explained his background. He is a retired senior Police Officer and so has a good knowledge of law. DH co-ordinated and led a campaign group to keep Orchard Close (a respite unit) open. This successfully utilised social media, TV and press; they also crowd funded to pay for a barrister to take to a judicial review at the High Court. However, the group also wanted to ensure they worked in partnership with Hampshire to reach a satisfactory conclusion. This was very successful and eventually led to a unanimous vote against closure. DH has also worked on other issues.  A number of members felt DH would make an excellent nomination. It was suggested that as some members had left the meeting early, we ask for any further nominations between now and the next meeting and vote at the next meeting. All agreed.  ACTION 3.4: Members to contact JH if they wish to make other nominations. ***Please note – if you nominate someone, the person nominated must be aware and agree to the nomination.*** They will need to write a paragraph on *what skills and talents they can bring to the role of Chair for the Carers LD Working Group, and what appeals to them about standing for election?*  **Guest Speakers** – suggested that guest speakers be invited to meetings. Some discussions about whether it would be better not to have a guest at every meeting in order to maximize the time for discussions.  **Format of notes -** Members agreed they did not need easy read notes, but they agreed to use the “You Said, We Did …” tool and to have action notes to reflect discussions at the meeting. | All  AM  All  All |
|  | **AOB**   1. ACTION 4.1: AM informed members of the current carers grant available until the end of March, and encouraged people to apply. 2. To look at who is responsible for monitoring the LD Plan, at the next meeting. ACTION 4.2: JH to add to the Agenda | All  JH |
|  | Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th April, 1.00-2.30pm  Meeting closed at 3.45pm |  |

Action Summary below

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| **No.** | **Ref** | **Action** |  |
| 1. | 3.1 | Members to consider the points on membership for discussions at the next meeting | All |
| 2. | 3.2 | AM to check the expenses policy and confirm how payments can be achieved and at what rate | AM |
| 3. | 3.3 | Contact JH if members would like to be part of any of the groups (see slides above for the different groups) | All |
| 4. | 3.4 | Members to contact JH if they wish to make further nominations. ***Please note – if you nominate someone, the person nominated must be aware and have agreed to the nomination.*** | All |
| 5. | 4.1 | AM informed members of the current carers grant that is available until the end of March, and encouraged people to apply. | All |
| 6. | 4.2 | To look at who is responsible for monitoring the LD Plan, at the next meeting. JH to add to the Agenda | JH |