**Report from Complex Needs Working Group**

**Meeting held online 281123 at 2pm**

* The meeting was attended by 5 Family Advocates, 2 people from Adult Services, and 1 Service Provider. There were 5 apologies. Our new Chairperson, Alison Cooper, from Parity for Disability, began the meeting by asking us to agree the notes from last time. Parity for Disability runs Day Services for people who have Complex Needs.
* We looked at our Terms of Reference and we all agreed this group should continue to talk about things that are important for people who need others to look after them all the time and help them to eat and drink and keep clean. These people often use wheelchairs, have little or no speech and very little understanding of what they need to keep them safe and well. They may also often be unwell and need to take a lot of medication.
* We talked about who should be able to attend this group and decided not to limit the number of Family Advocates. This is because we want to hear from as many people as possible and also because we can’t always make a particular meeting due to our caring responsibilities. We also want more Service Providers to attend to learn about the needs of people we support, so we will try to recruit a G.P. and also someone from an Agency that provides fill-in care.
* We made a list of things that we want to talk about in future meetings. One of the most important is the lack of suitable respite care for people who have Complex Needs. Some parents are unable to have any break at all from their caring responsibilities and the people themselves have no change of scene. Another important thing is to make sure that the right staff are working with people who have Complex Needs and that they are trained to understand what they must do to look after someone who can’t explain how they are feeling or either want they want to do or want to be done for them.
* We shall also talk about everything to do with keeping someone safe and well, especially the different therapies that can help a person enjoy a better life. We made a very long list of things to talk about which Alison and Amanda will put into future agendas. Our next meeting is on 23rd January 2024 1.30-3pm.