**Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership**

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**Complex Needs Group**

**Meeting Notes from 5th November 2024**

Present: 11

Apologies: 3

Everyone introduced themselves and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

BP requested to share about his daughter due to having to leave the meeting early, he had issues accessing the GP in a timely manner, another parent carer suggested 111 for immediate medical needs. BP gave his apologies and left the meeting to deal with this matter. BP highlighted FPH liaison team have also been helpful in the past.

**Matters arising –**

BL gave an update on Sensory bags available for visits to hospital, these will be purple bags.

Attendees reminded to check the PMLD Link document for useful information about health.

JS requested an update on the Voyage Care incident and was advised there will be feedback in due course. A manager in a Voyage Care home mentioned they are planning an extension, quite an expensive addition when other services are cutting back, JS felt this was quite worrying given the incident in the headlines.

All acknowledged the difficulty in finding drivers to support people to go out in the current climate.

There was no feedback on the visit by Carers UK to meet with Stephen Kinnock.

SeeAbility are celebrating 250 years next year. One member met David Blunkett and complained about the state of the drive up to the home where they live, soon after this a local councillor came round to follow up.

**Equipment**

There was a discussion about access to equipment resources: AB shared that her friend had been unable to source a wheelchair due to not meeting criteria, as it is not needed in the home but is needed for going out. Alternative equipment resources were discussed such as websites selling second hand equipment. Other resources for equipment were shared such as the Red Cross, Shopmobility and Hire Purchase. DR shared his son has a specialist wheelchair for posture and an adjustable shower bed which has been life changing and is perfect for his son. Essential Aids was shared as a helpful website.

**Budget Impact**

Participants shared concerns about the effects of the recent Budget – a feeling that it was shocking and ‘devastating for providers and councils and the NHS and is going to cost a fortune’.

Personal healthcare budgets need to be reviewed, when you have good staff you want to keep them and need to be competitive; an agency in Fareham is encouraging personal assistants with an offer of £20- £25 an hour pay, this issue was also discussed at the direct payments meeting. Hampshire County Council and the ICB are looking at pay rates but it is last minute, there is concern that good staff could be lost.

Providers pointed out the risk where PAs are not being regulated by the CQC creating unregulated care and support.

Provider costs will rise by at least 10% due to the National Living Wage and National Insurance increases. NLW brings up the lower end of pay scales but there is a need to maintain the gap between staff and managers. An example was given of someone who stepped down as department manager and picked up two shifts. Local authorities have not announced any fee uplift yet. The National Insurance increase will impact as social care is not being compensated like the NHS. Statutory bodies have meetings coming up as Hampshire is a massive employer and in tight times every penny counts. The legal minimum service has an impact on people in society in the greatest need.

NCVO have a petition Budget 2024: Key implications for charities | NCVO is another ways of raising concerns. There are other petitions and template letters to try to raise awareness.

**Local issues, feedback and information**

JS raised an issue on behalf of her friend in Hedge End, there is a home for people with Complex Needs opposite where regular ambulance attendance blocks the road, JS confirmed she has stated her concerns to staff at Hampshire County Council.

Dietitians at Frimley Park Hospital have had a supply issue for feed for DR’s son since the end of August. Nutricia had problems as it comes from a third party supplier; his son cannot change, as any change causes digestive problems that seriously impact his son and the whole family. He had one day of food left and finally dieticians stepped in and got feed delivered. Has anyone else had these experiences or found an easier way to get over supply issues?

JS shared experiences of using the access card to go to Fareham Live to the theatre which her daughter loved. Staff helped get down the stairs safely and it was free for two staff to go along with her. It is a fully wheelchair accessible venue, they have a Changing Places toilet and 18 disabled parking spaces outside. JS will share the details Fareham Live, Fareham | Official Site

AC shared about a recent Royal Visit from the Duchess of Edinburgh to Parity (on the day of the Partnership Meeting). This made the national newspapers and it was a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness about complex needs.

**Future topics**

We talked through some past topics and identified some for 2025:

Future planning, how people are planning for later life and an update on 2nd transition residential and supported living in the South of the county.

Respite care, ML has been all over to find suitable respite. There is a huge physical disability and LD need in the north of the county. AMC to check teams and get the right person along, the ICB should be looking at this as well having moved into complex needs.

There was a request to share notes and feedback from Partnership meetings. AB shared how she engages with the Partnership now that it has changed, noting it is important to keep working together. She has been impressed by the self-advocates, they're doing and understanding a lot more than when it was the Blue LIG. AL updated that whilst the meetings may feel very different there are opportunities to raise issues and ensure that everyone’s voice is heard, whilst recognising self-advocates have a much more central role than they did before.

Future dates for Tuesdays in 2025 were discussed and will be shared after the meeting