Hampshire Carers Partnership & Learning Disability Partnership

Carers LD Working Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday 7th January 2025

Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Method: Zoom

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| **Attendees**  | 8 |
| **Visitor 1** |
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| **Apologies 11** |

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|  | **Welcome/Apologies/Introductions**Introductions were made.**Conflicts of Interest** – none declared.  |  |
| **1.0** | **Actions and Feedback from last meeting –** If no update, action has been achieved; updates in italics. See summary of actions on pages 4&5* Amendment to Appendix 3 – should read: *MW talked about her son's experience of using Ways into Work support. He was supported for a year, but it took many years to get the job; he is still in employment.* Post meeting note – amendment made.
* Notes of last meeting agreed.
* Agreed that papers for the Learning Disability Partnership (LDP) meetings need to be circulated 2-3 weeks ahead of the meeting, so that carers can consider if they would like to raise issues. Dave Humphries is the representative for this group.
* MG will ask H to keep SE updated about recruitment of new shared lives respite carers *–* Action: *JN to follow up with MG*
* MW will keep the group updated on Autism Hampshire- *nothing to report*
* Re Companion Bus Passes: *JS has written to her MP and Cllr PS who has agreed to take up the issue, and agrees it is discriminatory. JS reported that the law would need to change, to reflect this, so it is not a local decision. JL reported that New Forest MENCAP is also taking this issue up and supporting people to write to their MPs and Councillors. So far they have received 2 replies, which indicate people are appalled that this is happening. JL stressed that the impact will be enormous, but the saving will be small. JL has copied main MENCAP and copied them into the letter.*

Action: JL to send JS a copy of her letter. * S, C and J to liaise re meetings to discuss NF families who need to be allocated. Action: *JL to follow up with S*
* Feedback from JN on the Connect to Grant re: Employment Project*: Grants are specifically targeted at getting people into paid employment, so this won’t hep if people want to do long term volunteering, but AHC are still waiting for more details from the Government. It is aimed at anyone who is “economically inactive” irrespective of disability. AHC will be talking to DWP to see how all the services link together. One of the challenges is that Job Centres are not consistent.*
* *There is no time limit on Access to Work benefit, so support can be continuous. Action: JN to provide information on this to JL*
* *The final sign off on uplifts is today. Direct Payments will be the first letters to go out; just waiting for JH’s signature. Easy Read versions will take a little longer.*
* Autism Ambassador training: *this did not take place in December as there weren’t enough people;* Action: *MW will update when a new date has been decided.* The training is 2 days training online, or one day face to face. It talks about what autism is about and is worthwhile for anyone working with someone with autism. JN has completed the training and reported that it gave a principle of baseline knowledge and was very helpful. It also provides a quality assurance measure if someone is an ambassador. JN is still aiming to ensure there will be an Autism Ambassador in all the front-line teams, and funding has been approved for this. MW felt this was very positive.
 | **JN****JL****JL****JN****MW** |
| **2.0** | **AHC Update – JN** – see Appendix 1 below -available on request |  |
| **3.0** | **ICB Update – TW & TG** – see Appendix 2 below – available on request |  |
| **4.0** | **New Information:*** **The Carers Strategy Action Plan** has now been finalised – available on request
* **Learning Disability Partnership (LDP)** - JL asked how the LDP and the working group meetings, associated with it, works. AL described the set up. Previously DH has raised the question about whether there could be topics agreed three months in advance of the meeting so that the working groups could discuss prior to the LDP meeting and then feedback to the LDP; people liked this idea. AL is meeting with the co-chairs of the LDP this week to see if they agree with this. Currently co-chairs meet 3-4 weeks prior to the LDP to agree items for the agenda.

JL would also like to know how topics can get raised at the LDP; she would like the issue of the withdrawa**l** of companion bus passes to be raised. Action 4.1: AL to check with Cllr. Fairhurst if this has already been raised. AL went on to describe the function of the LDP. Currently everyone brings reports from each working group then there are topics for discussion. At this point there will be a presentation, followed by a discussion. Recently these have included changes in HCC and budget restrictions. LDP: information from the website - The Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership (HLDP) meets four times a year* It meets to talk about the important things for people with learning disabilities and their family and carers
* Its job is to make sure that things get better for people with learning disabilities
	+ by checking the promises in the Learning Disability Plan
	+ by considering recommendations made by each working group

LDP website: [**Home - Hampshire Learning Disability Partnership**](https://hldp.org.uk/)AL acknowledged that the new structure doesn't include discussions with actions. JL also suggested that as well as deciding on the topics for discussion, in advance, there also needs to be a way of raising issues as they come up e.g**.** companion bus passes, etc. JL is concerned about accountability and JS is confused by how it works. The group felt they needed feedback from the LDP to this working group, and that they haven't seen much action; AL asked if examples could be given. JL suggested she would like to know what the terms of reference are and the decision-making potential. She would like to be able to raise issues here and for those to go back to the LDP for discussion, which would then generate a comment or action back to this group. JS would like to see a list of achievements.Action 4.2: AL to circulate LDP newsletter which lists the achievements for last year. Voiceability supports self-advocates at the meeting but not on a one-to-one basis; AL was unsure of the level of support given to self-advocates prior to the meeting.  JL is concerned about how you ensure 3000 people with learning disabilities across Hampshire are represented. AL responded that the self-advocates represent different areas across the county and will make contact with their networks. Recently there was a discussion on CART, following a presentation, and as a result CART have now made changes. JL would like to be able to signpost people with LD and carers to self-advocates when they want to raise issues. AL said TH is the self-advocate in the New Forest area and she attends a drop-in session every 1-2 months. Action 4.3: AL to put JL in contact with TH. AL and JL also agreed it will be a great idea to have a feedback mechanism i.e., “You said… we did.”There is a turnover of self-advocates and at present there are 4 new self-advocates who are very keen to meet people. The group agreed a pilot over six months in New Forest, with TH attending every two months. Action 4.4: AL to raise this at the meeting with co-chairs next week.Action 4.5: AL to give feedback to this meeting and provide presentations slide deck for JH to circulate on the work of the LDP.  | ALAchievedALALAL |
| **5.0** | **AOB:** None  |  |
|  | **Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday 4th March, 2.00 – 4.00pm |  |

See below for Action Summary

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| **No.** | **Ref** | **Actions from previous meetings** |  |
| 1 |  | MG will ask H to keep SE updated about recruitment of new shared lives respite carers *– JN to follow up with MG* | JH |
| 2 |  | DH to consider the setting up of a small working group, with carers, to consider the learning from the automated reviews pilot – *JH to follow up with DH* | JH |
| 3 |  | Re Companion Bus Passes: JL to send JS a copy of her letter.  | JL |
| 4 |  | Re Second Transition: SD, C and JL to liaise re meetings to discuss NF families who need to be allocated. *JL to follow up with SD* | JL |
| 5 |  | Re Second Transition: SD to take concerns back to the teams (see Appendix 1 for details) – *JH to follow up with SD.* | JH |
| 6 |  | JN to provide information on Access to Work benefit to JL | JN |
| 7 |  | Autism Ambassador training: *MW will update when a new date has been decided.* | MW |
|  |  | **Updates/Actions from 7th January 2025** |  |
| 8 | 2.1 | Leaving the parental home: there has been feedback times re: a lack of guidance on people leaving the parental home, and what the process is. JN to circulate the first draft before the next meeting.  | JN |
| 9 | 2.2 | JN will ask if it has been suggested to people taking MARS that they could consider becoming a PA.  | JN |
| 10 | 2.3 | JN to send SDs updates –– see Appendix 1 | *Achieved* |
| 11 | 3.1 | TW to send JH a timeline of when pay rates will be announced.  | TW |
| 12 | 3.2 | T to send JH details of the Health Fairs. | TG |
| 13 | 4.1 | AL to check with Cllr. F if the issue of withdrawa**l** of companion bus passes has been raised.  | AL |
| 14 | 4.2 | AL to circulate LDP newsletter which lists the achievements for last year.  | *Achieved* |
| 15 | 4.3 | AL to put JL in contact with TH, the Self-Advocate for the New Forest.  | AL |
| 16 | 4.4 | There is a turnover of self-advocates and at present there are 4 new self-advocates who are very keen to meet people. The group agreed a pilot over six months in New Forest, with TH attending every two months. AL to raise this at the meeting with co-chairs next week. | AL |
| 17 | 4.5 | AL to give feedback to this meeting and provide presentations slide deck for JH to circulate on the work of the LDP.  | AL |