



## MINUTES

**Meeting Title:** Learning Disability Partnership Board

**Date:** April 19, 2017

**Start time:** 10.00 for a 10.15am start

**Finish time:** 12.30pm

**Location:** Polkyth Leisure Centre, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4DB

### Present:

Nicky Abrahams	Cornwall Advocacy	NA
Linda Byrne	Cornwall Carers	LBy
Elizabeth Campling	Health Promotion Service	EC
Martyn Coutts	Cornwall People First	MC
Anthony Dunn	CHAMPS	AD
David Edwards	Group Leader, Passenger Transport, Cornwall Council	DE
David Freeman	Self advocate	DF
Colin Gameson	Cornwall and Devon Police	CG
Toni Gibbs	Self advocate	TG
Gail Hawken	Cornwall Foundation Trust	GH
Su Hodgson	Mencap	SH
Richard Gittings	Self Advocate	RJ
Nicky Jones	CHAMPS	NJ
Laura Keeper	Self Advocate	LK
Ania Kostryzycja	Children's, Adults and Families Directorate, Cornwall Council	AK
Ben Law	CHAMPS	BL
Suzanne Leggett	Cornwall People First	SL
Ruth Mcleod	CRCC	RM
Manu MacDonald	Cornwall People First	MM
Joanne Marks	Cornwall Council	JM
Celia Newcombe	Healthwatch Cornwall	CN (minutes)
Neil Oats	CHAMPS	NO
Deborah Rees	Cornwall Foundation Trust	DR
Ebonyrose Thomas	CHAMPS	ET





	<p>the Cornwall Autism Partnership to help applicants contact the Access Team. HC will find a suitable member of the team to attend a future meeting to talk through the processes involved. One selfadvocate told the meeting that they had personally received a letter telling him that one of his benefits had been stopped; his manager was helping him appeal. HC will find a suitable person to speak to the partnership about support for appeals that is currently available.</p> <p>SL was concerned that the issue of support for people to attend forums had still not been resolved. HC are in the process of getting a confirmed outcome re the funding that is going to be available for people self-advocates to attend the partnership meetings and the most effective method of booking transport so that invoices are paid by the source of the funding.</p> <p>Gail said she had recently had problems travelling on a bus. CG will obtain details and follow up. He confirmed that the bus driver should not leave his seat but should be aware of what is happening on their bus.</p> <p><b>Bus Passes</b> (see attachment) 100,000 free bus passes are issued by Cornwall Council annually, only 54,000 are actually used.</p> <p>Private companies are reluctant to provide buses on routes where there are few passengers and they will not make money and Cornwall Council works with them to plug this gap financially.</p> <p>Since 2007 bus passes for free travel by Cornwall residents who are of pensionable age or who have certain impairments. These passes are valid for use between 9.30am and 11pm every weekday and all day at weekends and bank holidays. They last five years. It is necessary to get medical or social care authorities to confirm whether a person with a disability will qualify.</p> <p>The process to obtain these free passes will change with an aim for all applications to be handled centrally using post or online. Libraries are finding it increasingly difficult to be able to help, additional facilities at One Stop shops are being looked at.</p>	<p>HC</p> <p>HC</p> <p>HC</p> <p>CG</p>
--	--	---



<p>Questions and Answers:-</p> <p>Q. Why five year limit when learning disability is a life-long condition and many do not have social workers to support them? A. The limit is set by the government.</p> <p>Q. Why do some areas have few buses in the winter? A. Bus companies will not run buses if there are so few people that they cannot make money. Cornwall Council often insists that there is a service of some sort but it can be quite small.</p> <p>Q. What can we do to influence the provision of bus passes for use before 9.30am? A. Plans for changes are under consideration - see attachment. People should get in touch with their councillors so that we can measure how much of a call for this and the provision of companion passes there is.</p> <p>Q. People not having social workers and GPs charging to provide evidence are both problems that people with life-long conditions face when renewing. Is there a way that once a diagnosis has been received by the council that evidence can be kept on file so that renewal is automatic? A. We are looking at ways to make this possible.</p> <p>Q. Online applications are very difficult - could they be in Easy Read format? A. I will investigate the possibilities.</p> <p>Q. Why does my son have to pay two fares simply because there is no direct bus to his destination? A. This should not be the case - I will investigate why this is happening for you.</p> <p>Q. Does your department have power over bus stops/signage - if so could police provide signage to advise re hate crime and to indicate local Safe Places close to the bus stops. A. Yes I will give you contact details so this can be set up.</p> <p>Q. Could Easy Read format timetables be available to help people plan their journeys when they have tight time-lines? A. This is feasible I will look into what can be provided.</p>	
---	--



	<p>Q. How can I obtain an Easy Read format bus pass application form? A. Via Cornwall County Council, Easy Read application online is possibly not available at this time. I will check this.</p> <p>Q. I get my bus passes renewed automatically because I am of pensionable age but I do not want it - how do I stop this waste? A. One stop shops and libraries are able to help or contact Cornwall Council to give details (it was acknowledged that the number of libraries in the county is likely to reduce).</p> <p>Q. How could we keep up to date with the changes that happen? A. Various consultations will be made via town councils. The current round of changes that are being discussed will be in place in 2019.</p> <p>David Edwards finished by saying that he had found attending the board meeting a learning process and he will take this all back to his department and find answers to the above questions.</p> <p>JW thanked Mr Edwards saying that we had all learnt a lot and that it would be the start of an on-going conversation.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Cornwall People First update</b> (see attachment) Suzanne Leggett said that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding had been cut by 50% in the last four years.</li> <li>• She has been the manager since January 2017, there are only four staff, reduced from ten and this equates to two full time posts over the whole of Cornwall.</li> <li>• Learning disability forums will continue where possible and they will continue to feed back to the partnership.</li> <li>• Outreach and 1:1 work will need to decrease and other cost savings were necessary. There are currently no updates available on the web-site, Facebook etc. Major problems resulting from reducing spending on email support may have resulted in some lost emails. Please contact again if any answers were awaited.</li> <li>• Best contact is via staff mobiles or via martin@cornwallpeoplefirst.com</li> <li>• Funding is being investigated and new external projects</li> </ul>	<p>All</p>



	<p>such as the Victims service which is now running in Plymouth and Cornwall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cornwall People First is feeling positive with a solid foundation to work from.</li> </ul> <p>The forum presentation was much reduced due to time available. JM was able to provide an answer to a question about Bowden Derra in Launceston concerns - she will come back to the next meeting with more information but there are currently no new placements being made and everyone's safety has been checked.</p> <p>DR will find out more about changes to benefits which will mean that monthly Universal Credit payments will start. Forum members were concerned that bank accounts would need to be set up which without support will be difficult for many. The issue of many bank branches closing was also a worry.* See attachment to minutes.</p> <p>RM said that access to public toilets was also an issue at the Carer's partnership meeting and possible solutions are being investigated, toilets now being the responsibility of parish councils.</p> <p>There had been more problems with brokerage of care services - HC will investigate who the partnership should speak with.</p> <p>Support with employment - CN has made contact with an organisation that specialise in this and will provide information once some ideas have been developed and discussed.** See attachment to minutes</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>DR</p> <p>HC</p> <p>CN</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Tender for Community Based Day Support</b> (see attachment)</p> <p>JM said that work between the people receiving services, the carers, staff and providers had resulted in good knowledge about what had worked in recent years. And a specification which will go to tender in July 2017 for contracts from April 2018.</p> <p>JM explained that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day services had not gone out to tender for a while and the plan was to buy safe, good quality person centred services.</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There would be no cuts in spending but price increases from suppliers may affect volume of help available.</li> <li>• Commissioning department is aware that people prefer to stay with groups/people they know.</li> <li>• Feed-back was needed regarding what services people want and need so they could be sure they were purchasing appropriate services from the right resources.</li> </ul>	<p>All especially CPF Forums</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Supported Living Services (see attachment)</b></p> <p>Due to the meeting overrunning Ania Kostrzycka did a very quick review of her presentation. Because of this she will be invited to the partnership's meeting which will concentrate on support.</p> <p>Supported Living Services has been set up to investigate ways to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities and support being tailored to their needs 24 hours a day. This includes joining in with leisure, social work and learning activities in line with their Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p>She spoke briefly about shared ownership which may be another option for people.</p> <p>RS said she felt that due to the reduction in preventive services in the past few years it would be difficult for supported living to remain effective.</p> <p>SL said that people often look independent but they really do need supported living services</p> <p>Meeting ended at 12.40pm</p> <p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b> <b>Wednesday June 21, 2017 at 10am, Polkyth Leisure Centre</b></p>	<p>HC</p>



## ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES FOR LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING APRIL 19, 2017

\* The response received by CN when in contact with Tasha Milton | Disability Employment Adviser - Bodmin, Launceston and Bude | Department for Work and Pensions | Customer Services Directorate

“As a Government Dept. we would not be able to show favour with any specific banks so would not be able to make suggestions really. Our guidance does suggest that if a claimant does not know what to do then they should contact local jobcentre or ring appropriate benefit centre. We would try and help as much as we can but would probably look at other sources of help/support to get this done. All I can say is that if you are hitting a brick wall with any cases and not getting anywhere then let me know. The more we hear about individual cases being a problem the more power we have in suggesting change or more support etc. The trouble is often that although we hear things are a problem we often don't have the specific evidence that it is which gives us no clout to take it further.

The reason I asked about specific difficulties is that it can often be ID requirements rather than the process that is the main problem faced by many of our claimants.

I will speak to our partnership team about your concerns and see if we have anything that could help already or if it has already been raised”.



\*\*

The response received by CN when in contact with **Ellie Moseley, Inclusion Cornwall**

You are right in that the answer is complex but if we can make it simple by having one number that someone can ring to ask for bespoke advice then we can hide the complexity for them....anyone is welcome to ring us for this kind of advice.

In order to best help this particular customer group I feel it would be useful for me to better understand what the needs are and what the perceived gaps are.

\*\*\*

Present at the meeting was Dr Su Hodgson - Best Buddies Project Coordinator and Volunteer Services Cornwall, Mencap. She has asked us to include with these minutes information about their new Best Buddies Scheme

The aim of Mencap Best Buddies Cornwall is to facilitate meaningful, potentially lifelong friendships, peer support groups, social networks and promote fun activities between young people with and without a learning disability.

We hope that friendships can be formed which will enable the person / people with a learning disability, to participate and get involved in social and community fun activities, i.e. go to clubs, concerts, activity groups, football matches, the cinema, play X box with a friend, go shopping, go to the beach, go swimming, do all the things that other young people do, but which they may have never been able to do before. Moreover, the person with a learning disability will be learning new life skills i.e. traveling on public transport, using and dealing with money, interacting and behaving in social and community settings. All of which will enhance and promote their own self-esteem, confidence and well-being; enabling them to become more independent and less isolated and vulnerable.

The initiative will also raise awareness and reduce stigma of learning disabilities in the younger generation, their friends and family and throughout local communities as a whole. Mencap Best Buddies may also enhance the employability of both the person with and without a learning disability via participation, skills attained and links and activities undertaken by collaborating organisations i.e. Colleges, Volunteer Cornwall, Cornwall Sports Partnership.



The project is open to everyone in Cornwall and we are currently forming relationships and collaborations with numerous other organisations, which can support and work with us to ensure the initiative is viable and sustainable for eventual national roll out.

All the younger people involved will be under the Mencap umbrella and although we do not want the people without learning disabilities to be carers or support workers but rather be friends, they will be DBS checked and have awareness training of the key issues so that they are comfortable with what they need to do in specific situations.

I am always looking for more participants who would benefit, so please do pass on the information and ask them to get in touch with me.