



EASY-READ MINUTES

Friday 19 April 2024

The Library in Ellesmere Port

.....
The Learning Disability Partnership Board is people working together to make things better for people with learning disabilities.



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People at the meeting

Name	Where from
Natalie Abraham	Managing Director CIPFA C.Co
David Biddle	CW&C - Commissioning Manager Learning Disabilities
Karen Bunnagar	Vivo - Support Worker
Sean Donelly	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside - Cheshire West Place - Learning Disability & Autism Project Manager
Oliver Downing	CW&C - Commissioning Officer
Roger Fenton	CW&C - Senior Manager Learning Disability / Mental Health
Michael Gentle	Self-Advocate - Peoples Choice Group / Canal Street (supported by PA Simba)
Jessica Gibson	Self-Advocate - Peoples Choice Group
Jackie Goldstraw	Peoples Choice Group and See Communications
Peter Grime	CW&C - Senior Access Officer
Sarah Hodson	Student Nurse - LD Team
James Holden	CW&C - Employment Support Senior Manager
Jan Hutcheson	Self-Advocate - Peoples Choice Group / Canal Street
Alistair Jeffs	CHAIR - Vivo - Director
Claudia Jones	Transformation Team Reasonable Adjustments
Dorothy Jump	Parent-Carer
Lucy Kennerly	Vice Chair Parent Carer Forum
Janet Lingard	Parent-Carer
Sheila Little	CW&C - Councillor
Ali McAvoy	Peoples Choice Group and See Communications
Martin McGuinness	Self-Advocate - Peoples Choice Group
Pauline Oultram	Parent-Carer
Tracy Parry	Vivo - Minute Taker
Alison Reilly	Policy Officer for Housing Strategy
Rob Robertson	Parent - Carer
Gemma Robinson	Self-Advocate - Peoples Choice Group / Canal Street
Thomas Rowland	Self-Advocate - Peoples Choice Group (supported by PA Dave)
Penny Scott	Self-Advocate Peoples Choice/Canal Street
Emma Shellim	New Practice Manager N&W (Replacing Julie Dobson)
Vimal Solanki	Vivo ICT and Business Support
Emma Walker	CW&C - Livewell Website
Charlotte Walton	CW&C - Executive Director Adult Services
Helen Walton	NHS Cheshire & Merseyside - Program Lead LD and Autism
David Wood	Community Nurse LD Team
Jennifer Williams	Employment Support Officer



Updates on Actions from the last meeting and Ongoing Actions



Some of these are covered in the meeting.
Some will be covered at the next meeting due to time.



Update

Some of the **Sub Groups** did not **report** at this meeting because there was not enough time.



Sub Group Update

FRIENDSHIPS AND BEING PART OF THE COMMUNITY

From Alistair Jeffs

Alistair said the group has been working on



The You're Safe Here scheme

This scheme is to help people if they feel unsafe while out. Places like libraries, leisure centres and council buildings have stickers to show they are part of the scheme. Staff have training so they can help people. It is going well. And...



- The **Special Olympics Sports event** which will be on **8 September**.
- The **Music and Arts Festival** which will be at **Winnington Rec in Northwich on 24 October**.
- **Vivo's Got Talent** will be in the **Summer**.
- There will be a **mini music festival** in the **summer** too.

More news about everything soon.



Look at the Whats On ebulletin for events.



Sub Group Update **SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE HOMES** from David Biddle



David shared an easy read **report**. There is Housing **Co-Production** work going on. To find out what housing people want in the future. Disability Positive are running focus groups.



Jackie Goldstraw talked about a **rent issue**. When a year has 53 weeks in it instead of 52, universal credit do not pay the rent for the extra week. Weaver Vale sent everyone affected a message saying they owed money without explaining why. This was very stressful for the person it happened to. Jackie suggested an easy read letter should be sent out before it happens again explaining everything.



David said he would speak to colleagues in housing.

! ACTION 47 - David to speak to staff in housing team. Easy read letter to be sent out.



Sub Group Update **ALL AGE AUTISM PARTNERSHIP BOARD** from David Biddle



David said they have now set up an 'All Age Autism Partnership Board'. This is instead of the Autism **Strategy Group**. The first meeting is on 24 April online. To decide who should be invited to meetings. And what the Board will work on. Oliver Downing is **Co-Chair**.



Sub Group Update

REACHING OUR POTENTIAL

From James Holden



James shared a Supported Employment update. 99 people are being supported. 36 people have a job. 18 of these have been working for more than 3 months. They have 60 employers working with them. And a wide range of jobs. There is a new programme called Universal Support. More news soon.



Sub Group News

PEOPLES CHOICE GROUP

by Jessica Gibson, Martin McGuinness, Pauline Oultram, Ali McAvoy, and Jackie Goldstraw



We link different groups together and help find and share easy read information and useful links and get feedback.

Since the last meeting we shared information including cancer resources, government news, general election and voting links, Positive News and the Museums and Libraries [Consultation](#).



Our social groups are for anyone aged over 16. The Winsford Friendship Group made displays for the Town Park and Saint Andrews Church for Brain Tumour, Colon, Prostate, Ovarian, Bowel and Testicular Cancer Awareness. As well as for World Purple Day for Epilepsy and Autism Awareness Month and National Tea Drinking Day on 21 April!



Our **Winsford drama group** is working on our **murder mystery play**. All of us might not survive!

And our **Northwich Grub Club** and **Winsford Singing Group** and new **Books Beyond Words Book Club** in Northwich are going well.



The **Chester Singing Group** is going well at the Den in Storyhouse. And the **Chester Yarn Crafts Group** have done more work on cancer awareness. A group member made a sign at woodwork for our display at Dial House with easy read cancer resources for people to read or take home.



The **Chester Games night** had two new members and Uno is the most popular game!

60 people watched **Kung Fu Panda** at the last **Cinema and Review Club** and a couple of groups stayed for the **review** afterwards.



The **Drumming and Sound Session at Live!** is a lovely group, everyone enjoys the drumming with a bit of movement and a relaxation session to end.



From end of April the **monthly Cancer Awareness sessions with the Snack and Chat group** at the **Salvation Army in Ellesmere Port** will carry on. The **Food Security project** we have been working on from January has been a great introduction for this group. Food is a big part in our health.



We have been finding out about the **food choices people make and why**. We worked with **Community Baking at the Wesley Church** and **All About Greens** and hosted 4 **cooking and eating sessions** to provide a supportive space for people to share meals and learn cooking skills. We listened to those struggling with food and have a better understanding of their challenges.



We have made recommendations for improving financial support and food security for adults with learning disabilities and autism. We hope this is just the start.



Our working group has given feedback on the Museums and Libraries **Consultation**. And the Housing **Strategy** and Council **Self-Assessment**.



And we met again at **Speak Up Speak Out** in Macclesfield. To talk about our thoughts about starting to be trained as **Oliver McGowan** trainers. Jackie also met with Pathways about being part of their Easy Read Partnership. And has done training on mental health, **Trans Support** and **Volunteer Boundaries**.



And attended a **virtual** conference about **Profound Multiple Learning Disabilities** services. And started a new group for late diagnosed **Neurodivergent** adults.



And we worked on the easy read Partnership Board **minutes**, actions and difficult words. And the Easy Read presentation on Adult Social Care.

Canal Street **Advocacy** Group



From Penny Scott, Jan Hutcheson, Michael Gentle and Karen Bunnagar.



The group enjoyed a Pizza and breadmaking session and a healthy eating session with Ali. The **Quality Monitoring Project** will start again. Sarah the Community Safety Warden organised a visit to the Town Hall CCTV control room. There is a Hawaiian Day fundraiser on 1 May. They had a visit from Leanne to talk about sexual health.



Sub Group Update

OLIVER MCGOWAN TRAINING

from Peoples Choice Group

WELCOME EVERYONE TO OUR OLIVER MCGOWAN PRESENTATION



Peoples Choice Group showed a presentation made by Suso. Suso means Speak Up Speak Out. They are a charity from Macclesfield that support people with learning disabilities and or autism.



This training is about the sad story of a young man who died because medical staff did not listen. His mum campaigned and now all health and social care staff have to get training about autism and learning disabilities.



The training is important so the same mistakes are not repeated. Oliver was let down by health care staff. He lost his life. His family lost their son. No-one else should go through that. People with learning disabilities and autistic people do sometimes die before they should. **Services need to be better and all staff need to listen.**



There is an e-learning part to the training. And another part delivered by people with a learning disability and autistic people. Either on a [webinar](#) or face to face. Some of the Peoples Choice Group are being trained to be trainers.



Jess, Gemma, Martin and Tom shared their thoughts and experiences.

The training is more powerful and memorable, coming from people who have lived experience.

Councillor Sheila Little asked if there is a list of who have been trained.



All staff in Health and Social care will have it but it is only just starting to be available.

If we get things right for people with learning disabilities and autistic people services will work better for everyone. Alistair thanked everyone for sharing their story.



Sub Group Update **ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY CONSULTATION** from Charlotte Walton and Natalie Abraham



Charlotte and Natalie spoke about the **Adult Social Care Strategy Consultation**. It is about **Adult Social Care Services over the next 4 years**. It is a short document about the way we work. Other documents have more detail. It was made by talking to lots of different people.



The Council want to know what is important to people so they can get **Adult Social Care Services** right.

Thank you to Peoples Choice Group for doing an easy read presentation.



They asked what everyone thought of the words used. The name of it is **Enabling Great Lives**.

Gemma suggested Supporting people to be independent.



Michael said he was worried about his choice being taken away of where he lives. Charlotte said that will not happen.



Jackie said **Choice** should be in the title. And that **Strategy** and **Enable** are difficult words. An explanation could be 'Our plan to support people to live life the way they choose'.



Lucy said Michael was right and choice is very important. She asked if the plan also was for young people who are moving into adult services. Charlotte said yes.



Charlotte said that **good local communities help people have a great life**. Karen said at a carers meeting people felt the plan did not mention people with complex health needs.



Charlotte said they want to get the language right. **Not everyone can be fully independent, some people need support**. Some people have short term care needs like after a fall. And some people have long term conditions. **Everyone should feel included**.



Pauline said Transport is a big issue. **Not being able to get to places stops people doing things** as well as money.

And when mid Cheshire College in Hartford closed a lot of people missed having local education choices.

Peoples Choice Group do a lot and it makes a massive difference to lives.



There are groups out there - **Livewell Website** and the **WhatsOn Bulletin** have details.



Gemma and Karen Bunnagar agreed that not having Transport stops them doing things. Online things are not the same. **Community Transport** only goes to certain areas and a **certain distance**. Natalie said lots of people are saying transport is an issue.

Live Well Cheshire West



Gemma Baxter said Transport is the least used part of the Livewell website. They want to put all transport options in one place - information is a big part of having control.

Alistair said **Community Transport** do what they can but more flexible transport is needed. They have regular meetings but are struggling. **Money is a problem.**

Charlotte said money is an issue for the Council. They are having to fight to get funding.

People said going out at night is a problem. Because of transport, staff changes, having to go home to take medication, and not having enough staff.

They have a section about Goals. To work as a team to improve services in peoples homes and the community.

People agreed there are good and bad carers. And low wages do not attract the best staff. Alistair said they are trying to **recruit** and give staff the right training to give quality care. **Caring needs to be a more valued.**

There are signs things are getting better.

Peoples said they want the council to

- Listen and give people the person centred support they want.
- Give more support to carers.
- Give funding to local organisations to provide services.

Everyone agreed.

The Council said they will

- Listen and work with people, help them make their own choices.



Sub Group Update

LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES REVIEW

from Alistair Jeffs



Alistair said hundreds of people have said what they think in workshops. And people can send in their comments until 8 May.

After the **Consultation** is finished the council will make a plan and share it. And make an Action Plan for each year so people can make sure they do what they said in the plan.



Sub Group Update

CARERS GROUPS

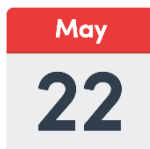
from Dorothy Jump, Janet Lingard,
Pauline Oultram and Lucy Kennerly
from the Parent Carer Forum



Janet said she went to a meeting where parents offered to share their vehicle with other people. And a Housing meeting about plans to adapt homes as people get older.



Dorothy said waiting time for adaptations is too long. She said new Carers went to the meeting. She thanked people who had done the **Oliver McGowan Training**.



Lucy Kennerly said the Parent Carer Forum survey results will be presented on 22 May at Ellesmere Port Holiday Inn. They support younger families up to the age of 25.



Pauline said Disability Positive help people with Direct Payments and how to employ people.



Other items

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

from Alistair Jeffs



Charlotte said that Roger Fenton and the **Complex Care and Review Team** have been shortlisted for a National Award. The event is in London and the winner will be announced there. It is recognition of their good work.

And it makes more people aware of people with learning disabilities.



And Julie Dobson has been invited to a garden party at the Palace in recognition of her work.



Mark from Bartex will present his **Virtual Tour** at the start of the next meeting.

! ACTION 48 - Angela to invite Mark and add to the agenda of next meeting.



Michael and another person will go to the North West Disability Conference. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

! ACTION 49 - Michael and another person to attend. Angela to add to the agenda.



Gemma is working on more easy read documents. Including one on Michael Mosley.



Co-Chair for the next meeting

It is Gemma's turn next.

Alistair thanked Michael for being **Co-Chair**.



NEXT MEETING INFO



Date

Friday 30 August 2024



Place

Ellesmere Port Library
Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG



Meet

9.45 for catch up and cake (starts at 10.30am)



Finish

12.30 in the afternoon



For more information ask **Tracy Parry**

Email: Tracy.Parry@VivoCareChoices.co.uk



These easy-read **minutes** were made by:
Ali McAvoy and Jackie Goldstraw from
See Communications and Janet Hutcheson
from **Canal Street Advocacy Group** and
Georgina Hulme of **Peoples Choice Group**.