



# EASY-READ MINUTES

**Friday 23 February 2024**

The Library in Ellesmere Port

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



## What's Inside?

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Page 4	Welcome and Co Chair Report
Separate Document Pages 5 and 6	All the Actions - Things people need to do. Updates on Actions from the last meeting and Ongoing Actions.
Pages 6 and 7 Page 7 Page 8 Pages 9 to 12 Page 13 Pages 14 to 16	Updates and Presentations:  Safe and Accessible Homes  All Age Autism Partnership Board  Adult Social Care Strategy Consultation  Peoples Choice Group  Carers Groups  Any Other Business
Separate Document	Difficult Words: Words in blue are explained in separate document. Please ask if you need these.
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## People at the meeting

<b>Name</b>	<b>Where from</b>
David Biddle	CW&C - Commissioning Manager Learning Disabilities
Kevin Booth	Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group / Canal Street
Tooba Bukhari	Physiotherapist
Karen Bunnagar	Vivo - Support Worker
Sean Donnelly	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 - People's Choice Group / Canal Street (supported by PA Simba)
Jessica Gibson	Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group
Jackie Goldstraw	People's Choice Group and See Communications
Jan Hutcheson	Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group / Canal Street
Alistair Jeffs	CHAIR - Vivo - Director
Dorothy Jump	Parent-Carer
Ali McAvoy	People's Choice Group and See Communications
Martin McGuinness	Self-Advocate - People's Choice Group
Jo Moss	Parent Carer
Pauline Oultram	Parent-Carer
Tracy Parry	Vivo - Minute Taker
Carla Preston	CW&C - Commissioner
Penny Scott	Self-Advocate People's Choice / Canal Street
Victoria Shaw	CW&C - Social Worker Adult Social Care
Vimal Solanki	Vivo - ICT and Business Support
Sue Sumner	Physiotherapist Team Leader
Emma Walker	CW&C - LiveWell Website
Charlotte Walton	CW&C - Executive Director Adult Services
Helen Walton	NHS Cheshire & Merseyside - Program Lead Learning Disabilities and Autism



## WELCOME from Alistair and Jan



Alistair and Jan welcomed Tooba and Sue.

They joined the Learning Disability **Physiotherapy** Team in August. There are 2 new assistants - Kathy Jones and Sharon Watson.



Sue is the Team lead. They are working to help people on the waiting list. She said anyone with a **Physiotherapy** question can email her [sue.sumner2@nhs.net](mailto:sue.sumner2@nhs.net)



Alistair said they are welcome to attend future meetings and please keep us updated.

Alistair and Jan welcomed Helen Walton. She works for the **Integrated Care Board** as a Senior Project Manager. She will be taking over from Tracey Matthews who is due to retire.



## Update **CO CHAIR** REPORT from Jan Hutcheson



Jan talked about the Day Services **Consultation**.

Jan said Day services are very important to me. I see my friends and it makes me happy.



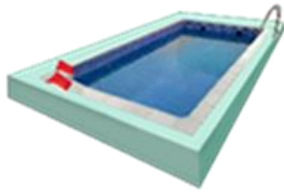
I go out to **Advocacy** Group meetings and speak up for others and represent them. The group has talked about the **Consultation**. I know a lot of people, and can contact them if needed.



If I didn't go to Canal Street then I would be sad. I have been going there a long time. The routine is important to me. The staff are great too.



## Updates on Actions from the last meeting and Ongoing Actions



### ! ACTION 44 and ACTION 18 Hydrotherapy Pools

Sean is working to get an easy read version of the Willows Pool Closure **Quality Impact Assessment**.

All the people who had used the Willows Pool have alternative **hydrotherapy**. Alistair has asked Charlie Ingham for an update on the search for a new **hydrotherapy** pool venue.



### ! ACTION 40 and ACTION 39 Hospital Best Practice Idea Sharing

Sean said sharing best practice is ongoing between all the hospitals. They will keep us updated. The two hospital case studies have been shared.



### ! ACTION 23 Closure of Crook Lane Respite Service

Sean said this action needs to be closed. **Accommodation and Care deal with Respite Services**.



### ! ACTION 16 Hospital Assessment and Treatment Units

Alistair agreed with Sean that we will get updates twice a year. About numbers of people kept in local Units. And if they are expected to be able to go home soon. And about numbers of people having annual health checks. Sean will update us at the next meeting.

Special  
Olympics



### ! ACTION 34 - Special Olympics

Alistair said he had a very **positive meeting** with Jo's contact. **Planning is ongoing**. It will be open to all. And about the same time as the Paralympics. **More news soon**.

### ! ACTION 35 - You're Safe Here Scheme

Alistair said this is **moving forward well**. The poster has been shared.

**Other Actions have been completed**. Sue and Tooba from the **Physiotherapist team** came to the meeting.



## Update

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



## Sub Group Update **SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE HOMES** from Alistair Jeffs



David and Carla made an **easy read report** to share. Alistair said thank you and it looked good.

- We want **everyone in Cheshire West** to live in a home that is right for them. In the area where they want to live.
- **Some homes need adaptations** to help people live well. This means changes to make the homes more **accessible**.
- Homes also need to be **affordable**.





- Some people need help to live in their home. This is called **Supported Living**.
- Lots of **different people work together to find the right homes for people**.
- The council is always looking for places to **build or adapt homes for people with learning disabilities**.
- We have **changed the way we get and record information**. To help us understand better what homes are needed.
- We **need to find homes for 154 people**.
- We are **working on 19 different projects**. These are for a **mixture of shared houses, flats, bungalows and adapted properties**. Most of these projects take months. But when finished there will be 106 homes.



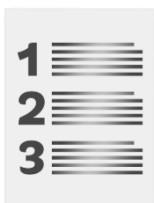
**Sub Group Update**  
**ALL AGE AUTISM**  
**PARTNERSHIP BOARD**  
from David Biddle



David said they have now **set up an 'All Age Autism Partnership Board'**. This is instead of the Autism **Strategy Group**.



**The first meeting will be in April.**



Group members are meeting in February to talk about who should be part of the Autism Partnership Board. And to make a list of priorities to work on.



## Sub Group Update ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY CONSULTATION from Charlotte Walton



Charlotte asked everyone to take part in the Adult Social Care **Strategy Consultation**.

It is a short document about Adult Social Care Services over the next 4 years. They want to know what is important to people so the Council can get Adult Social Care Services right.



There are lots of ways to give feedback.

People have until **19 May** to say what they think.

There will be a presentation at the **April meeting**.



Jo Moss asked who has helped make the document. Charlotte said they brought lots of different pieces of work together in one short document. Councillor Val Armstrong led the work.



Michael Gentle and Dorothy Jump said people worry about **consultations** and possible changes.

Michael said sometimes people who don't know us make decisions. We are told what is happening instead of being asked what is important to us.



Alistair said the Council are listening and doing **co-production**, working with people to hear what they want. They want to do what is right and learn from the past. They truly want everyone involved in decisions and making better services for the future.





## Sub Group News

# PEOPLES CHOICE GROUP

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



We link different groups together and share information and get feedback. We sent out lots of easy read information and useful links. For example about bathroom cleaning, racism, cancer awareness resources and the government disability action plan.



We have shared easy read surveys for the Council's day Services **consultation** and Sexual Health and Library surveys too. If you need easy read information about something specific we can help find it for you. Let us know if you want to be on our mailing list.



Our social groups are for anyone over the age of 16. New members are always welcome. Our Winsford Friendship Group has made displays for New Year, Cervical Cancer Awareness and World Cancer Day.



The Winsford Drama Group is working on a murder mystery for the summer. We will be helping fundraise for Mind.



The Northwich Grub Club, Winsford Singing Group, Chester Singing Group and Chester Games group and Club Nights at Storyhouse are all going well. And 64 people went to the February Cinema and **Review Club**.



The **Chester Yarn Crafts** group are doing projects and displays about cancer awareness. Ali made an easy read information poster about reducing our risk of cancer too.



Ali ran her first **Drumming and Sound Session at Live!** last Monday night. Lots of people went and had fun. Doing **body drumming** and **movement, drumming activities** and **relaxation**.



We are working with the **Salvation Army Snack and Chat** group in **Ellesmere Port**. About **cancer awareness** and **healthy food**.



Peoples Choice Group have some **extra funding** to find out about the **food choices** people make and why. And **what difficulties** people may have **eating healthy food**. We have **working on questionnaires** with people. And had **tasting and cooking sessions** for new healthy foods. We have planned **pizza and breadmaking** and **healthy drinks, smoothies** and **snacks sessions**.



We will make and share a **report** with funders in **April**. We hope to do more work with people.



Our working group planned what we will be doing for the year. And gave **feedback** to **Good Lives** and **Scope** on what issues we think **Politicians** should focus on when it comes to the **General Election**. We also gave feedback on the **Easy Read** draft of the **Council Housing Strategy**.



We have been working with **Speak Up Speak Out** from **Macclesfield**. We did the **Pathways Working Together** and **Train the Trainers** sessions.



We are all doing the [Oliver McGowan e-learning](#). And then we are going to be trained to deliver the Tier 1 [Oliver McGowan Mandatory training](#).

Jackie met with Pathways about being part of their Easy Read Partnership. More news soon.



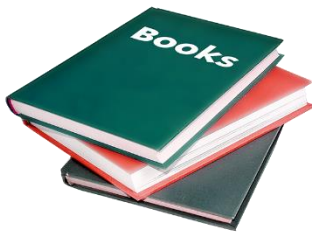
We had a Teams meeting with the Disability Positive [Safeguarding Reference Group](#). To plan our Mate Crime video.

Jackie went to a [Northwich Community Partnership](#) meeting and joined the [Winsford Partnership](#) too.



Accessible Information Standard

Jackie is helping the [Central Cheshire Integrated Care Board](#). With language about [Reasonable Adjustments](#).



We have a new [Northwich Book Club](#) one Thursday night a month. We are planning how we want it to work and where to meet. We have been given a free Book Club in a Box by [Books Beyond Words](#). We shared the link with all our contacts.



Jackie is looking for funding for her peer support groups of [neurodivergent](#) adults. She is currently doing this as a volunteer.



Ali supporting one of our members to the drop in at the [Autism Hub](#).



We worked on the easy read [Conference report](#) and [Partnership Board minutes](#), actions and difficult words. And Easy Read Partnership Boards [Terms of Reference](#).

## Canal Street Advocacy Group

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



The group decided to have discussions in the mornings. Then something different in the afternoons. They are planning days out, fundraising, and a Railway station visit.



Someone hurt themselves in town. Peter Grime is helpfully dealing with this for them.



They talked about the Day Service **Review** and the Libraries and Museums **Consultation**. Roger Fenton said Michelle Taylor would be a good person to invite to talk to them.



The group has raised **£2600** towards a **vehicle**.



The bus issue is still ongoing. They are going to a meeting with Lisa Rimmer and the Transport team. To come up with solutions to improve **community transport**. Councillor Little is also working on it.



They are going to see **Sister Act** at **Storyhouse**. They are very pleased with what **Storyhouse** is doing and Annabelle Turpin is very supportive.



## Sub Group Update CARERS GROUPS from Dorothy Jump



Dorothy said she gave feedback to a Transport webinar.

And there is a Carer's meeting on 13 March.

She said the CQC Housing Matters Group is now linked into the Supporting People Well Group.



A man with a learning disability had to go to A&E at 4.30 in the morning. He was in a corridor until that evening before being found a bed. There were no Reasonable Adjustments. He had his annual health check the day before. The health problem was not noticed even though it was visible.



Physiotherapy and hydrotherapy are really important for health.



Helen Walton said Health care is in a horrific state at the moment. She will tell colleagues in A&E about this. Health providers sometimes miss that Reasonable Adjustments are needed.



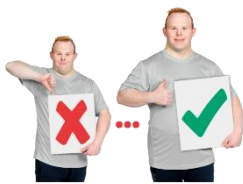
Alistair said we understand the pressures on staff in the Health Services. But we need to keep reminding people about what is important to us. Helen will report back what they say at a later meeting, maybe in June.



## Other items

# ANY OTHER BUSINESS

from Alistair Jeffs



### Learning Disability Day Services [Review](#)

Alistair said people have **12 weeks** to have a say before **8 May**. No decisions have been made. We want to hear what we can do better.

We need to look at the cost and value for money too. We want to improve things rather than take services away. All 25 day service providers are talking to people and doing workshops to find what is important to people.

Michael Gentle asked what will happen next.

Alistair said there will be a **report** with all the ideas and feedback. And an easy read version.

We will then work on the ideas that will make the service better. Nothing will change without us talking to service users and staff. Changes will be at least a year away - not this April but maybe by next April. People can keep asking questions about any worries.

We will talk more about the Adult Social Care **Strategy** and the Day Services **Review** at the next meeting.

Jo Moss said it was easy to complete the Day Services **Review** survey and easy read survey.

Jackie Goldstraw said the Council staff listened to the **Co-Production** Group ideas for the **consultation** wording and tool kit. It was a great session and great to be included.

## Sexual Health Services Survey



Questions

1. What do you think about it?

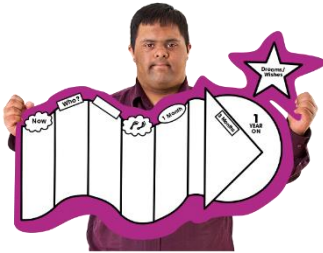
Good

Bad

Not sure

Liane Goryl talked about the survey. She has shared easy read documents. They want to make services better and more **accessible**.

She would like feedback anyway people want to give it. She is happy to visit and talk to groups. Anyone can contact her to find out more.



Jackie Goldstraw asked will Government plans for the Social Care workforce help us in Cheshire West and Chester. Plans include a new career path and qualification and **Apprenticeship** scheme. Lots of local organisations are finding it difficult to get enough social care staff. Roger Fenton said it is difficult to get social work staff too.



Alistair said Vivo only have 18 vacancies now. They had 40 vacancies before. They have been working with other providers and going to job fairs and promoting social care careers.



Dorothy Jump said not having enough staff can make other staff overworked and stressed. And it has a big effect on the people they look after.



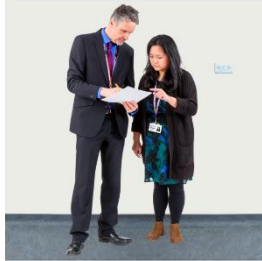
Charlotte Walton said the council is working hard to get the right staff and give them the right skills. The Health and Social care workforce have 24 people working on **Apprenticeships** and **Degrees** at the moment.



**Live Well**  
Cheshire West

### Learning Disabilities Partnership Board [Minutes](#)

Alistair said we are thinking of **sharing our meeting minutes**. Emma Walker said they could go on the **LiveWell website**. Alistair said **we will plan to do this for the next meeting**.



### Adult Social Care [Self Assessment](#)

Cheshire West and Chester Council are having a **CQC Quality Assurance visit**. **CQC** want to check we are providing good support for people to live well and safely.



The Council want to hear what people think of their services. There is going to be a workshop for Partnership Board members to give feedback.

**! ACTION 46 - Amy Lavery and Alistair Jeffs to invite all Board members to a workshop on Teams to give feedback.**



### Autistic Annual Health Checks

Jackie Goldstraw asked Sean Donnelly about plans for annual health checks for autistic people. Sean said it was still a **pilot project**. It is not planned for 2023 or 2024.



### Times Shared Scheme Update

No organisation has funding to run this scheme for Cheshire West. Jackie said she has shared documents from the **pilot project** with Speak Up Speak Out from Macclesfield. They want to set up a similar scheme.



### [Co Chair](#) for the next meeting

It is Kevin Booth's turn. If he is not available it is Michael Gentle's turn to be **Co Chair**.

Alistair thanked Jan for her **report** on Day Services.





# NEXT MEETING INFO



## Date

Friday 19 April 2024



## Place

Sension House, Denton Drive,  
Northwich CW9 7LU



## 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](mailto: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**.