



ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY LOCAL INVOLVEMENT GROUP
Minutes Fermanagh 14th April 2021

Attendees:

Chair

Ammie Storey

WHST

Patrice Curran Community Services Manager, Lorna Rice Senior Social Worker, Jonathan McGuigan Involvement Facilitator, Julie McGinty Involvement Manager and Christine McLaughlin Assistant Director

Service User/Carer

Gemma Carruthers, Kay Armstrong, Caroline Kelly, Eileen McDonagh, Peter McBrearty

| No. | | Lead Person | Action |
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| | <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Caroline Dixon</p> | | |
| 1. | <p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>Ammie Storey welcomed everyone and after a round of introductions the meeting began via Zoom at 7.05pm</p> | | |

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| <p>2.</p> | <p><u>Previous Minutes / Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The previous months LIG minutes were agreed and signed off. Jonathan McGuigan began the meeting with the facilitators update focusing on the Involvement Workshop held on 24th March particularly around the corporate language used on the Online Hub and Involvement correspondence such as the Terms of Reference and Welcome packs. Any attendees who would be interested in joining a working group to focus on updating the Hub or working group to look at the language and style of the Action Plan should contact Jonathan directly.</p> | <p>JonathanMcG</p> | <p>Jonathan to gauge interest and follow up Workgroup- Website Workgroup- Involvement Plan</p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p><u>Assistant Director Update</u></p> <p>Christine McLaughlin updated the group on a meeting before Easter attended by a number of MLAs about Learning Disability funding and spend. Karen O'Brien, Director of Adult Mental Health and Physical Disability, and Neil Guckian, Director of Finance, updated the group on Learning Disability spend within the Western Trust. Christine reported that 16/17 year spend of £30.7m, increased to £48.8m as of Feb 20/21, an overall increase of 60%. Christine noted the pressures currently on the programme particularly in regards to the increase in Direct Payments through Self Directed Support and Covid restrictions which has delayed a regional funding piece for LD started before the current pandemic. This may have to be re-evaluated in light of Covid.</p> <p>Caroline Kelly sought clarity on whether the Learning Disability budget/spend figures included childrens and hospital based figures and whether funding was recurring year on year.</p> | <p>LD/Involvement team</p> | <p>Identify budgets for adults within Learning Disability and agree how information is disseminated to LIGs</p> |

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Caroline requested spend and budget updates should be produced in easy read formats for the groups to understand considering how complicated the details can be. Christine will agree a way this information can be disseminated but noted she would only have responsibility for the Western Trust rather than regional spend. Julie McGinty noted that the level and amount of information was something the Strategic Involvement Group would focus on and add how this info would be delivered to its agenda.

Caroline noted the Health boards rebuilding plans and whether they governed directly how the Trust uses its funding. Christine meets fortnightly with regional colleagues and while acknowledging no system is perfect intends to ensure the Western Trust is well represented. Christine noted that the pre Covid regional LD model would need to be revisited post Covid and this currently sits with the Health Board.

LIG Priorities

Julie opened discussion on LIG priorities with how to raise awareness of Involvement amongst the wider community and engage with those service users and carers outside of the group. Julie felt that engaging the wider community seems to be a strong theme coming across all the LIGs and it would be useful if this was addressed proactively as a priority in the group. Julie noted previous SIG priorities from Fermanagh such as lack of social workers, carers assessments, Ageing and Future Planning and use of Direct Payments as a starting point.

Caroline noted day care and day opportunity provision are critical moving forward and stressed the need for innovation in the provision of both post-Covid. Future and independent living planning at an



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| <p>5.</p> | <p>earlier stage, strengthening of advocacy services and living adaptations were crucial.</p> <p>Caroline noted the lack of unmet need information and the importance of understanding social worker motives during assessments with a feeling of funding led as opposed to needs led assessments. Patrice Curran spoke to reassure the group that social workers are very much advocates for the service users and very much base assessments on need rather than any Trust financial concerns. They work hand in hand with families and consulted throughout the assessment process. She also noted the growth of social work teams and that Fermanagh currently has no unmanaged cases. Patrice acknowledged that it may be timely to look at the unmet need information said it was something she could bring to senior management. Christine agreed to look at the way information of unmet need was recorded and follow up directly with the local managers.</p> <p>Gemma Carruthers spoke of the All About Me and Carer Assessment information forms and questioned whether the recommendations at the end of the All About Me were important considering she felt they were not always acted upon by social services. Gemma queried why the short break needs identified in the Carers Assessments needed to go back to panel for approval when they had been agreed on the assessment? Patrice noted that the recommendations on the All About Me form are made in partnership with the family and the assessment is based on the service users need but the Trust will try to meet the All About Me recommendations as well.</p> | <p>LD/Involvement team</p> | <p>Patrice will follow up on information collection and recording of unmet need and feed back to the group</p> |
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| <p>6.</p> | <p>Lorna Rice, senior social worker, noted the social work teams still have a ways to go on the All About Me work and that social workers understand they are completed in partnership with families but have lots of learning opportunities which she will bring back to the social workers themselves.</p> <p>Patrice continued by explaining reasoning behind panel approval for short breaks noted in carers assessments. The assessment notes carer eligibility for short breaks, this is not an approval of the break which currently have to go to panel when the carer requests them. Patrice will raise awareness of the confusion with social workers directly and noted the carers assessment process will be explained to families more clearly going forward.</p> <p>Christine noted the differences between entitlement and eligibility and acknowledged that this is perhaps another level of beaurocracy which places added anxiety on families. Christine said that in light of this feedback she will consider the Panel application process and how we may do this in a different way. Christine suggested a pilot would be useful and she would like to involve carers and service users in this development.</p> <p>Ammie asked if families should be able to take part in conversations about their loved ones care particularly in regard to more complex service users and those admitted to hospital. Christine agreed that family representation was very important.</p> <p>Kay Armstrong noted the importance of this level of honesty in the Involvement process and social services and understands there is not infinite amounts of resources. Honesty was critical amongst social workers at the assessment process and requests the Trust does not build up false hope- social workers should be open and transparent when working with families.</p> | <p>LD/Involvement Team</p> | <p>Christine will consider the possibility of Piloting a different model of 'Panel Assessment' for short breaks and will update the group.</p> |
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| <p>7.</p> | <p><u>Reconnecting proposal</u></p> <p>Julie informed the group that she is exploring the feasibility of working in partnership with councils and other organisations to provide a range of outdoor social events for service users and carers over the summer months across all the council areas. These plans are subject to current restrictions but she will update the group going forward.</p> <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Kay and Amie noted that day time SIG meetings do not suit working carers. Ammie was unaware that the Chair would also be the groups SIG representative and was not comfortable in the SIG role due to inexperience.</p> <p>Christine noted that she felt that May was too soon for the SIG considering the group had not confirmed its priorities.</p> <p>Julie also felt that the meeting is untimely in light of the development needs of each LIG, however, she has faced pressure from members to ensure the SIG would meet as soon as possible. If the meeting did not happen she felt that the process and the Trust would meet with criticism. Julie suggested that it may be useful to ask members their views on postponing the SIG until it will be clear that the meeting will be useful</p> | <p>Involvement Team</p> | <p>Julie will continue these conversations and meeting and update the group in May.</p> <p>Jonathan and Deirdre will contact group members to ask for views on postponing the SIG</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Patrice Curran took the opportunity to thank all the carers, service users, staff and volunteers for supporting the Covid vaccination days in Fermanagh and the amazing work provided by all.</p> | | |
| <p>Date and time of next meeting</p> | | | |