



DERRY ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY LOCAL INVOLVEMENT GROUP

Minutes

25th May 2021

Attendees:

Chair

Gerry Craig, Carer

WHSCCT

Maire Boyle, Head of Service

Margaret Murphy, Community Services Manager

Deirdre Kelly, Involvement Facilitator

Christine McLaughlin, Assistant Director, WHSCCT

Julie McGinty, Involvement Business Manager

Karen Melvin, Head of Speech & Language Therapy (item 2)

Service User/Carer

Martin White, Carer

John Craig, Carer

Geraldine and Declan Hasson, Carers

No.		Lead Person	Action
1	<u>Apologies</u> Nicola Cooke, Manager of Maybrook Day Centre		

	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u> Gerry Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>		
2	<p>Speech and Language Therapy Service – Karen Melvin Karen Melvin, Head of Speech and Language Therapy, gave a short presentation outlining the work of her service and a contact number - 02871 860261 ext 218022. She explained that they can assist those who have problems with communication, eating, drinking or swallowing. Due to the expansion of this service waiting lists have been reduced. Discussion took place regarding the fact that the increased investment in the Speech and Language Therapy Service was as a direct result of the involvement work undertaken by the Local Involvement Groups (LIGs).</p>		
3	<p>Engaging the Wider Community Julie McGinty gave a brief overview of the 3 “Time to Reconnect” events which will take place in the local area over the summer months. She also spoke about the programme of activities being organised by the Day Centres to celebrate Learning Disability Week from 14th – 21st June. Martin White agreed that these events will help raise the profile of Learning Disability and the LIGs.</p> <p>Members stated that communication should be improved to increase attendance at the LIGs. Julie McGinty replied that membership has decreased throughout all the groups. She informed them that a “Welcome Pack” which includes a Terms of Reference has been developed. This is necessitated by the fact that the LIGs are working groups which feed into the Strategic Involvement Group.</p> <p>Julie McGinty referred to the draft “Have your Say” leaflet which was circulated to members with the papers for the meeting. It is proposed that this leaflet be distributed to the wider community to encourage new membership. She asked that members give any comments / suggestions on the leaflet by Friday 28th May.</p>		

4	<p>Involving Service Users Discussion took place about how to hear the views of Service Users. Christine McLaughlin stressed the importance of doing this in a meaningful way. Julie McGinty suggested that Speech and Language Therapists and Behaviour Therapists could assist in this regard. Gerry Craig suggested that there should be independent facilitators for Service Users. Maire Boyle stated that Social Workers help Service Users articulate what they want in their daily lives and this also needs to be done in the present forum. There was agreement that a separate group for Service Users should be set up.</p>		
5	<p>Strategic Involvement Group Update Gerry Craig gave a brief overview of the Strategic Involvement Group meeting which took place on 5th May: Attached</p>		 SIG update to LIGs.docx
6	<p>Any other business</p> <p><u>Finance</u> The subject of what finances were used for while Day Centres were shut was raised. Christine McLaughlin answered that they were used to provide outreach services. Staff who had to be redeployed remained within Learning Disability Services. Some staff assisted in the independent sector within Learning Disability.</p> <p><u>Transport</u> A question was asked about when transport services would return to normal. Christine McLaughlin replied that a regional meeting took place earlier in the day with all 5 Trusts, Department of Health, Public Health Agency and Health and Social Care Board where it was decided that there would be no change to the regulations at present. The Department of Health will issue a statement about this subject. She also informed them that work is to be undertaken regionally regarding the possibility of</p>		

	<p>loosening the regulations for Learning Disability clients. The issue of some members of transport staff not adhering to the guidelines was raised to which Christine McLaughlin responded this matter will be dealt with.</p> <p><u>Information Day</u> An Information Day is being organised for Carers. A range of local providers will be in attendance. Carers will also have the opportunity to avail of complimentary therapies.</p>		
<p>10</p>	<p><u>Next Meeting</u> 8th September at 7pm via Zoom.</p>		

