



## STRABANE ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY LOCAL INVOLVEMENT GROUP

### Minutes

24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Attendees:

##### Chair

Gerard Devine, Carer

##### WHSCCT

Eileen Maguire, Community Services Manager  
Victoria Young, Glenside Day Centre Manager  
Deirdre Kelly, Local Involvement Facilitator

Christine McLaughlin, Assistant Director, Learning Disability Services  
Julie McGinty, Involvement Business Manager

##### Service User/Carer

Paul Herron, Service User  
Mary Galbraith, Carer

Eileen Conway, Service User (accompanied by Geraldine McTernan (Social Worker))  
Deirdre Irwin, Carer

No.		Lead Person	Action
1	<u>Apologies</u> Karen Melvin – Head of Speech and Language Therapy.		

	<p><b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b> Gerald Devine welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>		
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Engaging the Wider Community</b> Julie McGinty gave a brief overview of the “Time to Re-connect”. There will be 4 events held in the Strabane / Castleberg area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 6-8pm, Alley Theatre</li> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> August, 6-8pm, Castleberg</li> <li>• 26<sup>th</sup> August, 6-8pm, Alley Theatre</li> <li>• 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1-3pm, Alley Theatre</li> </ul> <p>Activities will include Circus Skills, Dance Workshop, Energy of Light Disco, Physical Activities and music and with refreshments.</p> <p>The Involvement Team are currently designing a leaflet to promote the Local Involvement Groups which will be shared at these events. Draft copies of the leaflet were shared with members and they were asked to provide comments / suggestions for improvement.</p> <p>Discussion took place about how to promote the “Time to Re-connect” events. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press statement for local papers</li> <li>• Advertise in the booklets sent out by the Alley Theatre</li> </ul> <p>The local council and the Public Health Agency will also promote the events.</p> <p>Victoria Young gave a brief overview of the events being planned for Learning Disability Week from 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June. These include BBQ, party, ice-cream van and mobile petting farm.</p>		



3	<p><b>Involving Service Users</b></p> <p>Members agreed that it is important to involve Service Users in discussions particularly those with complex needs. It was suggested that they could be visited in Day Centres to get their views.</p>		
4	<p><b>Strategic Involvement Group Update</b></p> <p>Gerard Devine gave a brief overview of the Strategic Involvement Group meeting which took place on 5<sup>th</sup> May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members agreed the work of the LIGs and SIG should align with each other and also Trust and Regional plans / directives.</li> <li>• The group discussed the draft PPI Handbook for SIG members which includes the Terms of Reference. They agreed that this should be shared with LIG members so that they understand the purpose and work of the SIG (included with the papers for this meeting).</li> <li>• Hazel Browne up-dated the group on the Trusts current budget of £53.6 million for Learning Disability. The breakdown is outlined in the PPI Handbook.</li> <li>• The LIG reps suggested that to support local planning, a Locality Area Profile should be undertaken. This will be completed for the next SIG meeting in August.</li> <li>• Members raised the subject of Direct Payments. They were informed that the regional Direct Payment guidance tweaked some obligations during COVID, but the directive has been that Direct Payment account holders or parents could not be paid as an alternative to carers during lockdown. Any increased need during COVID by Service Users, for example no place at Day Centres, would be assessed as required by social services on a case by case basis and current Direct Payment packages could be increased as required using the standard assessment process.</li> <li>• The Strabane LIG representative outlined the local priorities for this coming year as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage the wider community</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involve Service Users</li> <li>- Proactively seek new members to the LIG</li> <li>- Improvement of the centre at Glenside</li> <li>- Respite and Supported living facilities</li> </ul>		
5	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><u>Curly Hill (Golden Lane)</u> Eileen Maguire informed the group that MENCAP will organise to give a virtual tour of the new development within the next few months. Deirdre Kelly has been in contact with both MENCAP and Golden Lane Housing regarding setting up a focus group with Service Users and Carers regarding the design of the development. At present 6 Service Users and Carers have expressed an interest in joining the focus group and they will be contacted when a date for the meeting has been organised.</p> <p><u>JAM Card</u> Paul Herron suggested expanding use of the JAM Card which people with a Learning Disability can use to indicate to retailers that they need more time.</p> <p><u>Evening activities</u> Discussion took place regarding the need for activities in the evening for Service Users.</p> <p><u>Location of meetings</u> Julie McGinty suggested that the meetings be held in a venue outside of Glenside Day Centre. Gerard Devine agreed with this suggestion, stating it would indicate to participants that the day centre was not the sole focus of the meeting.</p>		

	<p><u>Art Therapy Classes</u> The group agreed to fund Art Therapy Classes delivered by Trevor Verner from their budget.</p> <p><u>Learning Disability Choir</u> The group agreed to fund a share of the Learning Disability Choir which is due to commence in September from their budget.</p> <p><u>Carers Information Day</u> A Carers Information Day has been organised for 16<sup>th</sup> September in the Fir Trees Hotel. There will be information stands from local providers and complimentary therapy sessions for carers. Members agreed to fund this from their local budget.</p>		
6	<p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b> 19<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm in Fir Trees Hotel.</p>		