

ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGIC INVOLVEMENT GROUP

Minutes 5th May 2021

Attendees:

Chair

Christine McLaughlin Learning Disability Assistant Director

WHST

Margaret Mulligan Head of Service, Maire Boyle Head of Service, Bronach McMonagle Trust PPI Lead, Julie McGinty Learning Disability Project Manager, Sean Moynihan Business Services Manager, Hazel Browne Trust Senior Financial Accountant, Jonathan McGuigan Involvement Facilitator SS and Deirdre Kelly Involvement Facilitator NS

Service User/Carer

Dianne Crozier, Kay Armstrong, Gerry Craig, Caroline Kelly, Ammie Storey, Gordon McKinley, Gerard Devine

| No. | | Lead Person | Action |
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| | <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Karen O'Brien Director of Adult Mental Health and Learning Disability.</p> <p>Julie McGinty noted there was no SIG representation from Limavady which would be addressed with the group at upcoming LIGs.</p> | | |

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| 1. | <p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>Christine McLaughlin opened the meeting with a round of introductions and thanked all for attending. Christine noted the difficulties of the past year for carers, service users and Trust services and remarked that the momentum and work undertaken by the LIGs over the last number of months was critical to the successful re-establishment of the SIG. Christine noted the strengths and commitment of all those attending and acknowledged that the mixture of lived and working experience of those around the table would enable the group to work in partnership to creatively improve services.</p> | | |

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| <p>2.</p> | <p><u>Involvement Manager Update</u></p> <p>Julie McGinty welcomed new members to the strategic group. Julie gave an overview, noting the impact Covid 19 has had on the Involvement process, particularly on attendance at the local groups. Julie went on to note the progress and work of the LIGs over the last few months which has seen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and agreement of LIG TOR • The nomination of chairs and co-chairs, • The establishment of a Chair-Co-Chair Forum, to support members to fully engage in the SIG. • An Involvement Workshop to agree Action Plan and Website update • Development of an Involvement Action Plan • Structured, agenda driven meetings • Development of induction packs <p>Julie remarked that it is clear that over the coming months an urgent focus needs to be directed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the work of the Local Involvement Groups and encouraging involvement from the wider community • Improving attendance at Local Involvement Group meetings • Thinking creatively about how we meaningfully involving service users | | |
| <p>3.</p> | <p><u>Chair-Co-chair Update</u></p> <p>Julie gave an overview of shared and agreed topics arising from the chair-co-chair meeting.</p> | | |

- To clearly agree at SIG the sphere and limitations of influence this group will have.
- The work of the LIGs and SIG should align with Trust and Regional plans and directives
- Clearly align the work of the local and strategic groups
- Keen to understand the structure and role of the WHSCT
- To learn more of the particular professions within LD
- To undertake a LD population profile in each Council area
- A financial and progress update is given at each SIG
- To ensure Innovation and creativity around day care and day opportunities

4. PPI Handbook and Terms of Reference

The group discussed the draft PPI handbook for SIG members.

Membership- We currently have no representative from the PHA or HSCB on the group

ACTION: Identify appropriate representative from the PHA and HSCB to attend meetings.

ACTION: Julie will make handbook available to LIG and SIG members. (We have plans to print and distribute)

The group agreed it is essential that we appropriately reach individuals with a learning disability and bring their views and input to the SIG. Caroline Kelly enquired whether independent advocacy would be part of the new regional LD model?

ACTION: Christine will check the status of this piece of work in relation to the Regional Model.



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| 5. | <p>Margaret Mulligan noted the work of some independent groups currently working with users particularly the Tell It Like It Is (TILI) service and suggested we could harness their support in involving service users.</p> <p>Maire Boyle described the Local Engagement Partnership, which has come from Social Work Initiative Strategy, which is a partnership of Trust staff, service users and local providers and works to encourage best outcomes for community based service users. It is clear that there will be opportunities to link the work of the LEP with the work of the LIGs as both groups develop.</p> <p><u>SIG TOR</u></p> <p>Members of the group were unsure if the TOR had been agreed and signed off.</p> <p>Gerry Craig advised the group that SIG TOR had been agreed and signed prior to lockdown.</p> <p>The TOR are to be agreed annually, however, they have not been tested yet as the SIG has not met for a year and Gerry suggested they should be reviewed next year.</p> <p>(Note: since this meeting, we have discovered the signed TOR held in the office at Lakeview)</p> <p>The SIG TOR will be made available to the local involvement groups for their information, to ensure they have a full understanding of the role of the SIG and role of their representatives within the SIG.</p> <p>ACTION: SIG TOR will be added to the next LIG agendas.</p> | | |
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| <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p> | <p>Ammie Storey raised a concern around point 16 of the TOR and confidentiality, she would not be comfortable discussing issues at the SIG which could not be communicated with the LIGs. Christine assured the group that it is unlikely anything raised at the SIG could not be relayed to the LIGs as the point of the attendees was to communicate accurate and appropriate information from the SIG to the local groups. However, occasionally discussions may be held which are not yet in the public domain and it is necessary for the TOR to contain this caveat.</p> <p>Kay Armstrong noted previous SIG outcomes were not communicated to the LIGs.</p> <p>Julie noted she has shared SIG minutes with Chair and Co-chairs before the SIG meeting and intends that these minutes will be available on the Website. It is important that SIG reps take responsibility in feeding the information back to their respective local groups.</p> <p><u>Nomination of SIG Chair and Co-Chair</u> Christine Mc Laughlin - SIG chair Bronach McMonagle, PPI Lead in the WHSCT - interim co-chair until a carer representative is nominated. Julie noted the upcoming ‘ Chairing Groups’ training on 25th May 3-4.30pm which has been arranged for Chairs and Co-chairs and will continue to build confidence and skills.</p> <p><u>Finance update</u> 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. Hazel explained that this funding is recurrent.</p> | | |
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| <p>Gordon McKinley enquired if last years budget had been fully spent. ACTION:Hazel will follow-up and bring this information to the next SIG meeting.</p> <p>The group sought clarity around a number of queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Out of area costs particularly around Republic of Ireland placed clients. Margaret will follow up and feedback to the group.• Where do Direct Payments sit within the budget? Is this within Domiciliary care budget or a blend of budget headings? <p>In reply to a query, Christine explained that an 'ECR' is a term used to refer to those who have an 'out of area placement'. Those who are cared for in Ireland are paid from WHSCT budget, however those who are cared for in England due to no suitable service being available in Ireland which will suit their needs, are paid through arrangement with HSCB.</p> <p>Margaret Mulligan noted that identifying this detail may be difficult and may be easier to report financial break down of N and Sectors to begin with. ACTION: Financial profile of N and S sector to be available to next SIG meeting.</p> <p>Gerry Craig highlighted the recent resignations of John McCann and Lucy Brown from the Task and Finish group and wished to add to record the members gratitude for their integrity, focus and commitment to this process over many years.</p> <p>Christine acknowledged the work of the Task and Finish members and noted the majority of the agreed £8 million underspend had been redirected back to LD services but agreed there was still some work to do. The profiling work requested by the LIGs would help shape the remainder of the underspend rebalance and future services.</p> | | |
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ACTION: Population profiles for each area will be undertaken by Involvement team and wider ALD team and completed for the next SIG meeting

8. LIG Priorities

The LIG representatives were asked to give their areas top priorities for focus this coming year with a number of recurring themes as follows:

Derry

- Engage the wider community
- Involve service users
- Proactively seek new members to the LIG
- Respite and short breaks
- A focus on transitions throughout life
- Future planning for older carers

Strabane

- Engage the wider community
- Involve service users
- Proactively seek new members to the LIG
- Improvement of the centre at Glenside
- Respite and Supported living facilities

Fermanagh

- Engage the wider community
- Involve service users
- Proactively seek new members to the LIG
- Scoping/Profile of LD users and unmet need
- Streamlining the Panel approval process for Shortbreaks
- Development of Creative and bespoke Day Opportunities



Omagh

- Engage the wider community
- Involve service users
- Proactively seek new members to the LIG
- Development of creative and bespoke Day Opportunities
- Scoping of existing LD users and unmet need

Limavady

- Engage the wider community
- Involve service users
- Proactively seek new members to the LIG
- Short Break provision
- Multi Use Games area

Christine thanked the groups for their local priorities and noted how many of the recurring themes, were critical and would feed into the larger picture of future LD budget decision making.

Dianne Crozier noted the year on year lack of day opportunities in the Omagh area and how this would be addressed particularly over the summer months. Margaret assured Dianne that while current restrictions meant there were no summer day opps planned all service users can contact their social worker who would work in partnership with families to support them as necessary.

ACTION: Items for LIG agenda; SIG Update including SIG TOR; Service user involvement, engaging wider community and promoting work of the LIGs

9. Trust Rebuild Update

Sean Moynihan updated the group on the Trusts challenges throughout the Covid 19 pandemic noting Day Centre and short break facility social distancing restrictions as particularly difficult to work with but also noted how the restrictions have allowed the Trusts to develop new innovative ways of working. It is clear that service development for the foreseeable future will be undertaken with regard to Covid restrictions and guidance. At present there are no changes from the DOH in regards to 2m social distancing requirement.

Gordon McKinley queried due to Covid restrictions could parents be paid using Direct Payments?

Margaret replied that while the regional Direct Payment guidance tweaked some obligations during Covid, the directive has been that Direct Payment account holders or parents could not be paid as an alternative to carers during lockdown.

Margaret assured the group that 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.

Christine noted that regional updates would be added as a rolling agenda item at future SIGs.

Date and time of next meeting

4th August 3pm-5pm