



STRATEGIC INVOLVEMENT GROUP

Minutes

3rd November 2021

Attendees:

Chair

Christine McLaughlin Assistant Director Adult Learning Disability

WHSC

Margaret Mulligan Head of Service, Julie McGinty Involvement Project Manager, Leone Burns Finance Dept, Jonathan McGuigan Involvement Facilitator and Deirdre Kelly Involvement Facilitator Northern Sector.

LIG Representatives

Dianne Crozier (Omagh), Gerard Devine (Strabane) and Gerry Craig (Derry)

No.		Lead Person	Action
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Ammie Storey, Kay Armstrong, Karen O'Brien, Hazel Browne, Bronagh McMonagle, Sean Moynihan		

	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u> Julie McGinty welcomed everyone to the meeting which started at 3.00pm.</p>		
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Opening discussion</u></p> <p>Julie McGinty opened the meeting noting that since August we have had 8 cancelled LIGs due to number of apologies which have made it unlikely for those meetings to proceed in a meaningful way. Julie explained that this meeting should take time to acknowledge the challenges and to focus the meeting decisions on how to move the Involvement process forward.</p> <p>As 3 of 5 areas are represented at this meeting it was agreed that todays group constitutes a quorum.</p> <p>Groups are generally in agreement that we need to do things differently and to take stock of what we have achieved and where we are.</p> <p>Julie reported a number of alternative suggestions from the Northern LIGs have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All LIGs could be combined into one Trustwide group - One LIG in each of the Northern and Southern sectors - Themed groups with a focus on one topic, for example respite, transitions, Day Centres etc. <p>Gerry noted that the recurrent themes of increased respite capacity, inadequacy of current day centre facilitates continue to be areas of concern across all LIG's and members are keen to see these specific areas addressed. This was agreed by other present LIG members.</p>	<p>Chair/Facilitator</p>	



In response to query by Gerry Craig regarding the historical financial situation, Christine McLaughlin noted that financial rebalance had been agreed amongst the Task and Finish Group some years previously as £8 million and while the Involvement process is about developing and improving services that it is important to understand that this takes place in a wider system of constant service change and transformation.

Evaluation

Julie McGinty noted the discussion at the SIG meeting on 4th August when the group had discussed and agreed that it is timely to have an Independent Evaluation of both the Involvement Process and Impact and that it would be appropriate to 'pause' the LIG meetings during this process.

Gerry Craig raised the concern that an evaluation process would take too long and noted that any process should be turned around quickly.

Julie agreed and explained that she would endeavour to have a tender process completed by Christmas with the evaluation beginning early Jan 22 and completed by March 22.

Julie has taken advice on the tendering process :

- Develop the Specification- Nov
- Target Independent providers directly- Beginning Dec
- 2 week turn around for responses- Mid- Dec
- Evaluation Steering Group with Carer input
- Score and Award the contract- Mid- Dec
- Project Initiation meeting- early Jan

- Evaluation Complete- end March

Dianne Crozier noted the success of the Involvement process in the Omagh group and was concerned that any 'pause' of the LIG's due to an evaluation could lose the momentum of the group. Dianne commented that the Omagh group want to look to the future with service user upskilling and dissemination of service information rather than focusing on the past. Dianne noted that the success of the group in Omagh was beginning to become apparent with increased opportunities and choice 'on the ground'.

Julie reassured Dianne the evaluation would not stall Involvement but strengthen it with learning and recommendations. Any evaluation would be an objective analysis of LD Involvement describing what has worked well and noting what has not worked so well.

Julie also reassured the group that the Involvement Team would remain in close contact with members and that the work and programmes happening in each area would continue throughout the process.

Margaret Mulligan thanked Dianne for her input and noted the evaluation would be the perfect place to note what has worked well in Omagh as much as what has not worked elsewhere.

Gerry noted the evaluation was a new horizon and agreed it should not just focus on what is not working but identify resulting positive changes for services and individuals.

<p>Decision - The group agreed the LIG's will be paused temporarily to allow the completion of an Independent Evaluation of the Involvement process.</p> <p>Decision – Julie will seek Carer Representation onto the Evaluation Steering Group</p> <p>Julie thanked everyone for their input and will begin the tendering process for the evaluation as soon as possible.</p> <p>Action- The group asked that Julie draft correspondence to detail this decision to all LIG members.</p>		
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