



What has happened since the last meeting?

This newsletter tells you a little bit about what has happened since the last meeting of the Strategic Disability Partnership Board on 7th April 2011.

It does not include things that are on the agenda of the next meeting on 14th July

If you want to know more or have any questions please raise on the Issues Board at the meeting or speak to Sue Haddock.

Sue Haddock sue.haddock@bradford.gov.uk Tel 01274 435001

1. The Five Principles for Better Information for Disabled People NHS Bradford and Airedale - Good News



NHS Bradford and Airedale have formally adopted the Five Principles. They are working on some information to put on their intranet site to encourage staff to use them

2. The Alhambra Theatre and Assisted Performances



There have been two excellent reports in the Telegraph and Argus this month. In 2006 only 186 people attended assisted performances. Now at least 700 people use these services. The theatre said 'the service users are the experts' The Bradford Theatre Access group (BTAG) have made sure that Service User voices are heard and acted upon. The second article was about the Companion Club for people who visit the theatre on their own.

3. Signing of Charter for helping Local People get a proper say in their health and well being



At our last meeting we agreed to support the Charter. Paul Anderson represented us at signing of the Charter at the launch event in April.

4. The Hardest Hit Campaign



No members of the Partnership were able to go to the the march in London on May 11th. However, the Disabled Peoples Forum

- Sent a letter to their MP
- Did a press release for the media
- A member spoke on Bradford Community Broadcasting.

A Bradford resident who has visual loss joined the RNIB group who went to parliament.

5. Service User Involvement in Mental Health Services

At our last meeting we agreed we had concerns about changes to the Mental Health Network. We were worried that maybe people who use Mental Health services were no longer able to have an effective voice in service planning and delivery. We wrote to Mick James (Head of Mental health Commissioning in Bradford and Airedale NHS) about our concerns. The reply is attached. We will agree at our next meeting what we want to do next.

6. Positive Bradford



SDP are hoping to be involved in the day on 28th September in the centre of Bradford. Darryl is taking the lead on organising a chance for people to have a go at the 'BIG challenge'. We are talking with the School enterprise enablers who are very interested in the work we are doing. We are hoping to link with some businesses through this too.

We are hoping that there will also be a chance to take part in creating a banner for the day at Easier Access this year.

7. The BIG Lunch



The Involving Disabled Peoples group have organised a BIG Lunch at Lister Park on June 5th at 1pm . Disabled people and their supporters, carers and families are very welcome. Meet at the Black and white Balloons. Bring a picnic and something to sit on. Further details from Julie Farrell or Paul Anderson

8. Social Care Improvement Committee



Caroline Coombes helps the Social Care Improvement committee to work well. Caroline would like to improve the communication and relationship between SDP and the Social Care Improvement Committee. These are some of the things we have agreed to do

- Caroline is going to send me the Easy Read agendas which I will send to Partnership members. Anyone can go to Social Care Improvement Committee so, if there is something interesting on the agenda do please go.
- If the Partnership have any questions or things we want the Social Care Improvement Committee to look at we can ask Shaun or Tim to take it on our behalf and it will go on the agenda.
- We have also added Caroline to our email list so she knows what we are doing.
- We will also ask Shaun and Tim to take copies of our 'What has Happened Since' to committee members.

9. Easier Access Update



Everything is going to plan. Application forms should be with people in the next 2 weeks. Please ask for more copies if you know anyone who wants to come. Contact Jeanette Booth 01274 437957 jeanette.booth@bradford.gov.uk

So far we have 12 influential people coming as buddies. These people come from different backgrounds including from local business. This is the first time we will have had someone from the private sector attending the event as a buddy.

10. Elected Office Consultation



Sadly we didn't have time to do a full SDP consultation on this. However, we did put in a response on behalf of the Partnership. The key points we raised were

- We felt it was important to have an 'access to public office fund'. This would help to fund peoples access needs if any disabled person wanted to stand for public office. We suggested it was run in a similar way to 'Access to Work' .
- We felt there were no actions to raise disabled people aspirations to consider standing for public office in the proposals.
- Disabled People should lead the training for non disabled MP's and Councillors,

- We felt it was important that people already in public office mentored disabled people.

11. Letter to Andrew Lansley



At our last meeting we spent some time thinking about the questions we wanted to ask about GP Commissioning. You asked if we could send these to Andrew Lansley who is the Health Secretary. We did this and got a response from the Department of Health. I have sent this letter to all SDP members.

The key points of the letter are

- They know that there are concerns some of which are genuine
- They are listening
- The Government are fully committed to the NHS

They thanked us for sharing our concerns and encourage anyone to have their own say through the Modernisation of Health and care website at www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare or email nhsfutureforum@dh.gsi.gov.uk

The NHS Future Forum is made up of patient representatives and people who work in the NHS. They are writing a report based on all the concerns they have heard by the end of May.

By June the Government will write a reply to that report telling us what they are going to change in their plans for the future of the NHS.

I also sent copies of our questions to all the local MP's. Several of these has said thank you. One has specifically asked to see the response.

Appendix 1

Letter from Mick James Head of Mental Health Commissioning

27th April 2011

Sue Haddock
Disability Partnership Strategy Coordinator
Department of Adult and Community Services
Morley Street Resource Centre
124 Morley Street
Bradford
BD7 1BB

Dear Sue,

Many thanks for your letter of 26th April 2011 re the future plans for the engagement of service users in the strategic planning of mental health services for working age adults.

The Mental Health Partnership Network was formed in the autumn of 2009 and was at the time designed as the main forum for involving mental health service users as well as service providers in the planning of the delivery of the mental health strategy. The Network was accountable to the Mental Health Programme Board which in turn reports to the Integrated Commissioning Group with its links to the Council Corporate Management Team and previously the PCT Clinical Executive. I have attached a copy of the structures for background information.

As a mechanism for involvement it has not really been effective in engaging with a wider audience to gain views on developments. In reality, the main methods for influencing and designing developments have been through the Project Boards for each change initiative where service users, carers and representatives of local BME communities as well as the relevant service providers have been directly engaged and this has proven to be a very effective means of engagement. These include the day services review, Improving Access to Psychological Therapies, the SUNSHINE project the Healthy Ambitions work as well as other smaller projects.

The Mental Health programme has also been inclusive of older people's mental health services but this has a separate meeting structure but no direct user or carer involvement. We are currently looking to refresh our strategy and would wish to try and bring together these agendas to provide a more equitable and inclusive approach to mental health services.

In addition the role of the User Carer Link Project has been evolving and their central role in the Care Trusts' Service User Involvement Team has been central to many of the developments undertaken directly within the Care Trusts services. With the transfer of mental health services previously provided by Bradford and Airedale Community Health services to the Care Trust this will continue to be a vital link for users to engage with service developments across a broader range of mental health services.

The changes to commissioning in the PCT will result in changes to the meetings and governance structure and also people's roles. Indeed, those previously involved in the chairing and running of the network have either resigned or are awaiting compulsory redundancy. As a result we wish to review arrangements to look for a fresh mechanism to deliver this.

In seeking to assure the views of mental health services users and carers moving forward we have agreed to engage with people in a number of ways. We will continue to work closely with the UCLP to facilitate the input of views into the planning and design of services. This will be through direct involvement in individual Project groups dealing with specific initiatives. We will also ensure that there is (wherever possible) a commissioning representative at the newly formed Well-being Action Group. We are also committed to continue our support to the involvement of the UCLP in the Care Trusts SUIT meetings with a view to this providing feedback to commissioners.

With regard to the link to the Strategic Disability Partnership I am not sure when this was formally agreed but the current Terms of Reference for the MH Partnership Network don't make reference to this. Certainly neither I nor the chair of the group were aware of this and so I can only apologise if this was omitted during one of the transitional changes from a previous mental health partnership forum. I would suggest that the UCLP are probably the best placed group to make this link, and if the members of the SDP wish to look at how this is facilitated I am happy to discuss this with them as part of our objective setting.

Yours sincerely

Mick James
Head of Mental Health Commissioning