

## SENSORY IMPAIRMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Zoom meeting

### Minutes

### Attending

AWB	Andrew William-Barnes	Deaf Blind UK
KB	Karen Berkley	Peterborough City Council
AB	Alison Bourne	Cambridgeshire County Council
PB	Pauline Brown	Independent Member
GC	Grace Clark	Cambridgeshire County Council
CF	Carol Farrar	PCC Therapy Services Manager
MF	Michelle Foster	Cambridgeshire County Council
MJ	Mike Jenkins	CamSight
FK	Fiona Kerr	Cambs Hearing Help
CK	Charlotte Knight	Cambridgeshire County Council
GL	Graham Lewis	Healthwatch
PMc	Paul McCloskey	Independent member-chaired meeting
HM	Helena Melbourne	CCC Sensory Impairment Team
AP	Andrew Palmer	CDA
TR	Tom Rawlings	Hunts Blind
WW	Warren Wilson	RNIB

### Apologies

JC	Jackie Cook	Independent Member
MS	Mick Scadden	Chair and Independent Member
FS	Frances Swann	Cambs Home Improvement Agency

### 1. Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions

Introductions were made and GL asked the meeting if it was okay to record the meeting for the purpose of minutes. GL also explained the Closed Captions facility.

## 2. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 were approved.

### Action Log

72 - Azuma Trains - this action is to be discontinued as the pandemic has prevented it from taking place.

96 - Addenbrookes appointment letters not in an accessible format. This has been raised by all possible routes. This item is to go on a watching brief.

104 and 105 completed

106 is outstanding

107 and 108 completed

109 completed but noted that it would be constructive if people had one point of contact across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to report problems with taxis.

**ACTION:** GL to make this suggestion to the licencing authorities

## 3. Feedback from Independent members.

PB Lack of public knowledge about the red/white cane. Informs people that the person using it has dual sensory loss, however, it also identifies that the person is possibly vulnerable.

PB Issue locally about a zebra crossing that is getting dangerous due to poor road markings and drivers not observing the road conditions.

PMc Report problems to local councillors, the highways authority and police as this would raise the issue up the relevant authority's agenda.

PB There used to be disability awareness days in Cambridge for councillors which helped them to understand the issues that people may experience. Could these be restarted.

PMc The different organisations could do things to raise awareness.

AP Could hold a series of live streams across social media to raise awareness on specific issues.

**ACTION:** GL to explore with some organisations about these issues.

AP Recently used an E-Scooter in Cambridge late in the evening. Due to the time of the day he had to do a 'drunk test' before it would allow him to use the scooter. It would be really a good idea if before each time anyone uses the scooter they had to go through a few reminders about not using pavements, understanding of red/white canes etc

**ACTION:** GL will raise this with the Combined Authority and VOI who are delivering the E-Scooter hire scheme.

#### **4. Feedback from other meetings**

The Adult Social Care Forum (ASCF) met and agreed its action plan for delivering on its priorities:

- Digital inclusion/ exclusion
- Transition
- Co-Production

The ASCF also look at the SUN Networks Co-Production and Involvement Best Practice Guidance.

At the Healthwatch Health and Care Forums there have been presentations on the Integrated Care System - which will be the new model of delivering the NHS.

#### **5. DeafBlind UK**

AWB Explained that DeafBlind UK was set up in 1928, initially to support service men who had been injured in the Great War (WW1) but had then opened up to anyone who experienced dual sensory loss. DeafBlind UK is a members only organisation, so to receive services, people must be members. Membership is free and most services are free.

AWB The services that we currently providing for all our members:

- Helpline
- Emotional and wellbeing support services
- Befriending
- Empowerment support
- Social Groups
- Technology
- Holidays (2 holiday caravans, these have to paid for but is subsidised)

- Open hand magazine
- Cambridgeshire carers projects
- Free Deafblind awareness sessions and further paid training

AWB In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough there are also social groups and Carers projects.

**ACTION:** AWB will send GL information for circulation.

AWB The members identify services that would work for them. The aim of DeafBlind UK is to work in partnership with local services and compliment them rather than compete.

AP Glad that you want to work in partnership.

HM The Council's refer people, where appropriate, to DeafBlind UK's services.

PB Is the new venue in Peterborough accessible as would like to visit and get advice?

AWB The Head Office is at Rainbow Court in Peterborough, but it is not open to the public at the moment as it is not staffed at times, so not sure what will happen in the future.

## **6. Commissioner and Service Manager Update**

KB The new procurement process for Early Intervention and Prevention services is ongoing. The Council's are going to be organising events for Providers and for Service Users. These events will be online and accessible.

KB A new community centre has opened in Peterborough called The Vine. It is on Bridge Street, Peterborough. KB said it can be used for small group engagement events (eg knit and natter, carers support meetings) and there is a good library of leaflets about different services.

GC The services are going well, and the teams are on top of new referrals. The rehabilitation workers are going out to people's homes when they can. The new Team Manager is in process of being recruited. Once they are in post provider meetings will re-start.

## 7. Older People's Accommodation Needs Assessment and Care Suites

AB Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils have started to look at what type of accommodation older people may want in the future, accommodation that meets their needs for support but also ensuring their independence. Between 2021 and 2036 it is predicted that the number of people aged 65+ will increase by 48% and the number of people aged 85+ will increase by 110%.

There is currently a mix of:

- care in the person's home
- assistance with getting up, washing, eating, going out etc
- technology enabled care
- retirement homes
- care homes
- nursing homes

MF The Councils are also looking at a new idea called 'Care Suite's' which will be renamed as Independent Living Service. These are studio flats in a complex that gives the person access to assistance if they need it, but also allows them to live independently. Whilst people live in traditional retirement, care and nursing homes on a lease basis, care suites would be on a tenancy basis which gives people a lot more security in terms of how long they can live there and so feel really at home. People living in care suites would also have access to communal facilities such as a laundrette, lounge and dining room. Their studio flat would also have a small kitchen facility for making drinks or meals if they wish. The proposed pilot development would be in East Cambs.

People's eligibility for this accommodation would be based on need, not necessarily on age. This means that people with a range of disabilities may also be accommodated in the care suites.

FK How would this fit with local authority housing or housing associations?

MF The aim is for a not for profit to deliver the pilot, either a single organisation or a consortium.

FK Housing providers may be able to help the Council's access current residents to find out what they think of this proposal.

- PB Decided to move away from own home in Cambridge and moved into a retirement complex where has own flat. The complex has shared facilities (laundry etc), communal areas and gardens. Uses various pieces of technology to enable independent living. Also is close to health services, shops etc. The accommodation would need to consider the space for equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs etc. Also, if there are a number of floors, that there should be a number of lifts as well as stairs for people to use.
- AB Thanked PB for a very helpful summary of what works well, and also about what they need to think about for the location. Also showed the importance of thinking ahead and making decisions for the future rather than making decisions at time of crisis.
- AB Really want to hear what people think about these proposals.
- FK Happy to share links to surveys etc as long as there is plenty of time to complete.
- GL In a previous role I attended the CHH hearing aid clinics and was able to speak to many people about different issues and it was very helpful. This could be a way of interacting with people and finding out their views.
- AB We are happy to talk to people about this and have provided our contact details on the presentation.
- ACTION:** GL to resend details to everyone and include the contact details in plain email.

## **8. Priorities update and highlights to be taken to ASCF**

### Highlights

- GL Earlier in the meeting issues were raised that could lead to information campaigns: Public's knowledge of the Red/White cane, reporting of faded road markings and incidents at zebra crossings. It was also noted that in the past there had been Disability Awareness events to inform elected councillors and public about different disabilities and the issues that people may experience.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- AWB Is there a 'street charter' about accessibility, street furniture etc
- GL The two local authorities are responsible for the licencing, but the district councils also have a say, its not the same throughout the area.
- KB Is part of a Peterborough City Council working group on improving access to the City Centre. KB wondered if they could be invited to a future meeting.
- GL This is an issue that would be of interest to all the Partnership Boards, it may be possible to do a piece of work to better support council officers who review this type of planning application.

**ACTION:** GL to add to the Action Log and discuss with KB in future months

- MJ Peterborough Sight have put out a statement that says CamSight only work with people in Cambridge City. MJ stressed that this is not correct, CamSight supports people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, but does not compete against Peterborough Sight or Hunts Blind in-service delivery. MJ wanted to reassure everyone about this.
- AP CDA have launched a new Domestic Violence Project to support women who experience domestic violence.
- AP During the lockdowns 1 million minutes of CDA TV have been watched, programmes about a range of things but all with BSL etc.
- AP CDA Life - that provides Community Support Workers and Personalised Care Assistants to Deaf and Deafblind children, young people and adults - this service has recently been reviewed by the CQC and has been graded as 'outstanding'.
- GL Congratulations! appreciate how difficult it is to get such a high grading.

AWB DeafBlind UK national conference on 7<sup>th</sup> October. It will be online and accessible

**ACTION:** AWB will send GL details to circulate

GL Frances Swann of Cambs Home Improvement Agency provided some information about the Disabled Facility Grant and how to be referred to the service.

**ACTION:** GL will circulate the information.

**Date of next meeting**

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (please note that this is a Monday)  
Time: 11am to 1pm  
Venue: Zoom