

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

24th June 2020

Zoom meeting 11-1
Minutes

Attending

PB	Pauline Brown	Independent member
GL	Graham Lewis	Healthwatch
DD	Debbie Drew	Healthwatch
MS	Mick Scadden	Chair, Independent member
HM	Helena Melbourne	Sensory Impairment Team
EB	Erika Brown	Hunts Blind
NW	Nick Woods	Deaf/ blind UK
WW	Warren Wilson	RNIB
MT	Mandy Thompson	Peterborough association for Blind
SF	Sue Finch	Rehab PCC
PMc	Paul McClosky	Independent member
LM	Lee McManus	Commissioner, CCC
RH	Richard Howitt	Cambs hearing Help

Apologies

JC	Jackie Cook	Independent member
AP	Andy Palmer	Cambridgeshire Deaf Association
KB	Karen Berkley	Peterborough City Council
LF	Lucy Forrest	TEC Manager, CCC

1. Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions

Mick welcomed everyone to the first combined Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sensory Impairment Board. The March meeting had been cancelled due to Coronavirus.

2. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes from December were approved.

Action Log

72. Sati will be invited to a future meeting

73. Graham forgot to send the role of independent member this will be circulated.

75. Graham attended meeting and there is no funding for a car scheme in Peterborough.

76. completed

77. Ongoing

78. Graham will reschedule.

A discussion took place around trying to get Ely Society for the Blind to become part of the board. Many of the organisations had had varying success at contacting them. People were unsure as to the service they are providing. Maybe they could be invited to present at the next meeting to talk about their service.

Action: GL on extend an invitation to Isle of Ely Society for the Blind.

3. Feedback from independent members.

Issues were raised with potential changes to road structures and the adding of new cycle routes. There has been encouragement for more people to cycle and use of E scooters. This can be very difficult for people with sensory impairments where there is a shared use pavement. With social distancing still a requirement sometimes little space is left to implement it. Added to this in town centres particularly there is street furniture to get around.

It would be interesting to know if any consultation has taken place and whether the needs of people with sensory impairments have been considered.

RNIB suggest it would a good idea for people to write personal letters to their council where they foresee or have experienced a problem.

The issue around discharge of patients from hospital into care homes with a “negative” Covid19 test only to then be positive within days of being in a home was raised.

It was felt that a reasonable risk assessment should be done for each person in these circumstances and that this should ensure the care home should be able to isolate that person for 14 days.

It was reported that in one care home in St Ives this had happened when the person had only been in hospital overnight.

Another issue was raised around a retirement housing complex where one resident was covid-19 positive, but the other residents did not know. It was felt that as some of the facilities (such as laundry) were shared others should be told. However, people do need to be able to preserve their privacy. In this circumstance the person and carers were not using the shared facilities.

ACTION Graham will share a recent presentation from the CQC that had been given at a Healthwatch forum.

4. Feedback from other meetings and ASCF

The adult social care forum has been cancelled until September. We can raise the discharge issues at this.

GL a big thank you to all who contributed to a report Graham was asked to put together about experience for during this time for those who are sensory impaired. It has been received well and has been sent to the county’s resilience hubs.

Healthwatch have been running their Health and Care Forums on zoom and have been well attended

5. Terms of Reference

This has been circulated for comments- it was approved.

6. The election of Chair/ Vice Chair

The roles of the above have been circulated. On amalgamating the boards, it had been agreed that the chair and vice chair roles would be up for election.

If anyone would like to stand for election or would like to know more than please contact Graham.

7.Priorities of the Board

Before Lockdown Graham met with Helen Duncan, Carol Williams, Sandie Smith and Oliver Haywood.

The boards have always been a critical friend to the council. They have asked each board to think about the issues that they feel are important. This could be something the council not considered or something the council are doing that the boards could get involved in.

Several ideas were discussed

- Digital inclusion/ exclusion - what is working could this be carried forward? Should there be more training available?
- Access to transport including new arrangements for increased cycle use- Should there be a concentrated look at community transport? Should we be making sure that people with sensory impairments are consulted before changes. Services should be proactive not reactive. Should we be encouraging councils to work to a standard.
- To get more board members to reflect all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and ethnicities.

The Peterborough Association for the Blind were approached by the council when it was doing work in the Queensgate shopping centre.

8.Good news from changes -Lee Mc Manus

The commissioners have been meeting weekly with the providers and looking at how to keep people safe and giving updates from the councils.

It has been amazing how services have adapted to offer support in different ways. Also, organisations have worked together to solve problems.

EB and HM confirmed that they had found the meetings beneficial and it had helped forge relationships between different organisations. It has also helped

them look outside their organisation at others which may compliment what they offer. These meetings are going to continue monthly as they have been so successful for all involved.

WW If the meetings are to continue, he would like to be involved. It would help focus resources

WW has information on campaigns at present and legal information on shared spaces.

ACTION Warren to share some information

9.AOB

EB raised the concerns many people are having about things returning to normal. There will be some expectations that all social activities will get up and running etc after 4th July when restrictions are relaxed. It would be good if all organisations were working on the same timelines.

PMc Suggested as the Covid19 meetings are happening Monthly and are being chaired by Andy from the Cambridge Deaf association that Warren might like to tap into this

ACTION PMc to pass on details to WW

LM Is retiring in August but will be having a virtual leaving do

MS felt that there will be more fly tipping as the council have restricted the use of the recycle centre and are not doing large collections at the moment. This has been a problem for those needing to get things to the tip.

NW It is deaf/ blind awareness week and there were some activities organised that had to be cancelled other things are happening too NW will share.

NW Deaf Blind UK have been offering support to venues/ premises to enable them to be more sensory impairment aware.

GL Healthwatch are running a survey around health and social care during the pandemic. We would encourage everyone to fill it in and share with family and friends. It can be filled in more than once as you may use this service more than once and Healthwatch are monitoring changes over time.



Visit our websites at: www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk

If you need a paper questionnaire, please contact us on 0330 355 1285, text 0752 0635 176 or email us at enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk

Healthwatch AGM is on Zoom Wednesday 22nd July at 2pm

Date of Next Meeting: 22nd September