

Physical Disability Partnership Board Notes

Tuesday 21st February 2023, 11:00am–1:00pm, online via Zoom.

(Pre-meeting for Independent Members from 10am).

1) Welcome, Apologies and Introductions – Graham Lewis (Chair)

GL chosen by the board to chair today's meeting. All welcomed, introductions and apologies given followed by an explanation of the meeting's agenda. RSG requested permission to record the meeting for the purpose of the minutes.

2) Recap of Last Meeting and Action Log Updates – Graham Lewis (Chair)

GL recapped the previous meeting Tuesday 15th November 2022, discussing the current Action Log and updates to it:

- 109 Terms of Reference refresh is on this meeting's agenda.
- 111 GL circulated slides from Cambs Home Improvement Agency and info on the services in East Cambs, Fenland and Peterborough.
- 112 Jane Fowler, Transfer of Care, Social Care Team is in attendance today to summarise discharge planning process.
- 113 Highlighted to ASCF concerns Joy App may create demand on community and voluntary sector organisations that they do not have the funding to meet.
- 114 Police advised training with emphasis on disability hate crime is delivered internally and to external organisations, raising awareness via social media.
- 115 GL still looking into someone attending a future meeting from Stop Hate UK to talk about the service once launched in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 116 Meeting plan updated, with meetings continuing online and not hybrid, unless requests are made to attend in-person.
- 117 GL Will contact planning authorities to find out the designated Access Officer in Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and Peterborough.

3) Feedback from Independent Members

RN reminded the board that despite Little People UK raising it as a concern throughout the Covid Pandemic, people with dwarfism were not mentioned on any special, vulnerable lists for vaccinations etc (despite respiratory conditions often having a worse effect on people in this group ie due to smaller/ restricted chest capacity). Now they are aware that these people are slowly being added to lists, receiving emails about Covid vaccinations and Flu vaccinations.

4) Discharge from Hospital – Jane Fowler Service Manager, Transfer of Care Teams, Social Care Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils

JF explained the team covered: Addenbrookes, Hinchinbrook, Peterborough City Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital & West Suffolk hospital for patients from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough borders.

During Covid to empty the hospital beds of people, the Government implemented immediate discharge, known as 'Discharge to Assess'. The hospitals discharged people who were medically stable into care homes. Social Care Teams then followed up with Care Act Assessments if required, aiming to get people back into their homes. Once the Care Act Assessment had taken place, the person would be finally assessed for their contribution towards their support. The funding for this ceased March 2022.

Currently what happens in hospitals is the Transfer of Care Team will get a referral from the hospital team to say, 'this person we think will require a level of social care support'. Leading to a visit with this person to have that conversation about what they want and where they want to be.

To support 'discharge to assess' The Government gave hospitals money to purchase beds in care homes, for example in Peterborough if your medically ready to be discharged but there are property issues that need resolving, you might be taken out of the acute bed and placed into a care home until works at house carried out.

Ignore the media as social care 'bed blockers' not an issue in the area, as domiciliary packages, re-enablement services, care home services etc are quickly sourced.

Comments, Questions and Answers

Q Asked how quickly financial assessments are getting done, what are the waiting times like across the area. JF was aware the teams are struggling to meet the demands, but that councils are working hard to recruit staff and address this.

GL commented that for a person's first financial assessment, whereby if a person is assessed for social care and the social care is put into place, that person would not contribute anything until a week after a financial assessment is completed and the care package is delivered.

5) Feedback from other meetings

Adult Social Care Forum (ASCF) – Graham Lewis

- The meeting discussed local accounts for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with future plans to have a Social Care working group to co-produce reports.
- Reviewed the terms of reference for the ASCF but hindered by proposals to separate out Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils senior management, who had previously worked as a joint group. Watch this space.

Healthwatch Health and Care Forums

Have had many interesting presentations and discussions across these forums:

- Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire – The Vaccine Access Partnership (VAP) and its transformation into the Health Equality Partnership (HEP) – using what has been learnt from work on vaccination barriers to be used to focus on other health equality barriers across Cambridgeshire.
- Fenlands and East Cambridgeshire Health and Care Forum – Addiction talk by The Sun Network – offering a better understanding of what it is.
- Huntingdon Health and Care Forum – Veterans service and support discussions.
- Peterborough Health and Care Forum – The Ockendon Report – maternity experiences and infant deaths in hospitals. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Health Screening – what it is, and why men aged 65years should attend screening.

These forums are open to people living in the local areas, please let RSG or GL know if you would like to be added to the mailing lists to attend these.

Disability Peterborough Forum

- The wheelchair services said people with intermittent health conditions if on the day of assessment can walk, they would not be provided with a wheelchair. AJM Healthcare are looking for funding to try and support these people. SB suggested this should be challenged at policy level, as a statutory service it doesn't sound correct as a lot of people's conditions do fluctuate and catching these people on a good day should not mean they are not entitled to a wheelchair. Especially when considering in writing PIP assessments individuals are asked to write about worst days.

Action: GL to speak to Sue Harris to find out a bit more about this.

- Discussions continue about changing places facilities in Peterborough.
- St Georges therapy pool, City Council scrapped the charge for carers (was £12).
- Recruitment challenges for Personal Assistants, support workers and carers with discrepancy in the in the price they can pay staff in relation to their care plans and what the council is contributing.

Action: Raise with ASCF Care plans are too fragmented, with 30mins/ 45mins for support staff not financially viable.

6) Update from Physical Disability team – Jo Palmer

Did not make the meeting.

Action: GL to reach out for update in future meeting.

7) Update from Commissioner

Due to long term sick leave and staff covering the gap, attendance is unpredictable.

8) Physical Disability Partnership Board Terms of Reference – Graham Lewis

GL discussed that a chair who presides over the meetings would attend the ASCF to represent the Physical Disability Board in raising awareness of issues raised and in turn report back to the board. If the board decides on a chair rota system, will need someone to volunteer to attend the ASCF meetings.

On recruitment drive for this board, GL asked for suggestions of where to attend meetings and places to talk to people.

- RE suggested Ability Plus Group – County disability Sports Forum.
- Linking up with Wheelchair Forum and could send leaflet on to people in groups.
- TW suggested publications in the local newspapers/ leaflets.
- DM suggested forwarding something to them as they send the Practice Update newsletters (for ASC practitioners).

Action: GL to discuss with Healthwatch Communications Manager and send out leaflets and articles to above mentioned.

Q Is there any mechanisms for recognising contributions made by members especially for attending additional meetings or regularly chairing meeting? As whilst it has been that expenses are not paid because the meetings are online perhaps more people would come forward and contribute if there was monetary support or funding available, for people's time input. GL explained there are a lot of issues around paying people ie the effects on benefits but that as aware County Council is in the process of looking into remunerating people for their time, will monitor this.

Action: GL discuss this with Healthwatch

9 Any Other Business

Date of next meeting

Date: Tuesday 16TH May 2023.

Time: 11am to 1pm, Pre-meeting for Independent Members from 10am.

Venue: Online Via Zoom.