

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

2 March 2021

Zoom meeting

Minutes

Attending

PMc	Paul McCloskey	Independent member-chaired meeting
MS	Mick Scadden	Independent member
PB	Pauline Brown	Independent member
KR	Khadija Raza	Independent member
GL	Graham Lewis	Healthwatch
DD	Debbie Drew	Healthwatch
HM	Helena Melbourne	Sensory Impairment Team
EB	Erika Brown	Hunts Blind
MJ	Mike Jenkins	CamSight
WW	Warren Wilson	RNIB
AP	Andrew Palmer	CDA
FS	Frances Swann	Cambs Home improvement
KB	Karen Berkley	Commissioner

Apologies

Mehmet Ahmet
Mandy Thompson
Jackie Cooke
Lucy Forrest
Vera Shilling

1. Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions

Introductions were made and Graham explained the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of minutes. Paul agreed to chair the meeting as Mick was not present at the beginning of meeting.

2. Minutes and Action Log

The Minutes from December were approved. An alteration to the spelling of the surname Theakes to Feakes was noted.

90 GL spoke with Sandie Smith

93 This is outstanding as Mehmet not attending meeting today.

3. Feedback from independent members.

PB Raised concerns that there were going to be deliveries by robot in some areas and the implication for visually impaired people.

DD These have been used very successfully in Milton Keynes for quite some time now.

The robots are programmed to actively move out of the way of objects and people so should not be a cause for concern.

It was reported that some health appointments are still not coming in the format people request. Addenbrookes does not do Braille letters for example.

EB Reported that Hinchingsbrooke eye clinic offered letters in Easy read (16) Large Print (24) or shaded paper but people could not have a combination of 2 like they could before.

ACTION DD to email Laura Stent to ask if Easy read is for people with learning disability or if the print is just enlarged. Also to find out if people could combine shaded paper with change in font size. See if this is the same across the hospital.

PMc GP practises have signed up to protocols so they should be held accountable if they do not comply.

ACTION HM to share info from Eye Clinic Liaison Officers for the region.

ACTION GL to share Accessible Information Standards and the link to GP report.

A conversation took place around the Capture pictures and letters needed to progress on some websites. This is very difficult for visual impaired people. Unfortunately, the screen reader voice talks over the audio capture.

A request to have captioning in on the meeting was asked and it is believed that this is now free with Zoom.

ACTION DD to ask Carole (office manager if this can be added).

4. Feedback from other meetings and Adult Social Care Forum

GL attended the last ASCF meeting on 28th January and gave feedback from the Partnership Boards and Sun Network. GL raised some of the issues around lockdown and the difficulty some members who are using Direct Payments to access the right information.

5. Update from commissioner- Karen Berkley

Karen said there was not much to report now. They are still working on the framework for the Early Intervention and Prevention tender.

6. Update from sensory organisations

Andy Palmer-Cambs Deaf association

- Referrals are still high
- We are doing face to face meetings when necessary.
- Our care team is growing.
- We have 2 staff who have done training around domestic violence.
- The befriending service is going well with 30 volunteers.
- We have CDA TV with information, quizzes, cooking and a very successful phone in. We have 125hr of content being watched.
- BSL classes resume in April
- We have a drop in on Zoom 3x a week
- We are looking for funding to continue our media work, drop ins and befriending.
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Paul McCloskey- Cambs Hearing help

We now have 8 maintenance service centres open and we hope to continue to expand these. We may never get to the previous amount but want to make sure anyone who needs the service can access it as local as possible.

ACTION DD to share Pauls information on service centres.

Mike Jenkins- Camsight

- We are doing some face-to-face visits after doing a full risk assessment and PPE worn

- We are doing some garden visits.
- We are planning for reopening services and deciding what we want to deliver.
- We hope that June/ July will see some group work happening.
- We have looked at possible new activities and activities we may want to continue for the future such as music or book club and to maybe continue some online activities.
- We are trialling some new activities and if successful plan to grow them.
- We have had positive feedback from the van we purchased and kitted out last year. We have received funding for a second vehicle and we are at the planning stage. One vehicle will do Fenland East and the other will do South Cambs and City areas.

Mike asked people what their views were on asking people if they had been vaccinated before allowing people into groups. Individual responses were given.

Helena Melbourne- Sensory Impairment Team attended a ethics lecture on that subject. Several suggestions and thought-provoking conversations took place. It was felt that it was important that the Government lead the guidance on this so that organisations/ groups could abide by those rules.

Questions were raised about some people not being able to make an informed choice whether to have the vaccine or not. It was also pointed out that some countries insist on a vaccine passport for certain conditions such as Yellow Fever

Erika Brown- Hunt's Blind society

- we are putting plans in place for a restart of activities in July. We are looking at venue's capacity, maybe reducing the length of sessions and we are delaying any live music for the time being.
- the plan is to open the shop again on 12th April
- we are still running Zoom quizzes
- we are still doing telephone conversations
- we are planning to restart some arts and crafts
- our book group is running digitally

In some areas the reopening of activities is council led. It would be good if councils had a standard check list so small organisations could work out if the groups were viable.

ACTION Karen is doing some work with Public Health and will raise this council led route idea.

PAB- the name for this organisation is to change on 1st April to Peterborough Sight. They are still running virtual groups and have been giving out smart speaker devices to some members.

Warren Wilson- RNIB

- Still joining in with local and national campaigns
- We have been talking with local authorities and rental operators about E scooters and campaigning to stop privately own scooters being legalised. Locally we have been working with VOY who have expanded their range and are introducing some in Peterborough. We are working to ensure that the street parking areas for these are enclosed in some way.
- We are looking at accessible voting and trialling some devices in Peterborough.
- The Census this year will be online. For people who cannot do this there is a phone line. People can call to arrange a phone appointment. Information is available in various formats too. 08001412021

ACTION DD to share information after meeting.

- We have been doing well being calls to people on our data base.
- The ECLO call back service- in West Midlands and South East we are doing follow up calls 6/ 8 weeks to make sure actions have been followed through.
- Our Tec for Life, Helpline, Shop and talking book service are still running.

HM With many people at risk of losing jobs this year are you running an Employment advice service?

WW We are holding weekly webinars responding to pressures. We are making sure employers are living up to their responsibilities. We help people and employers understand those legal requirements and help people retain their employment. We do have quite a waiting list for this service.

7. E-Scooters

Unfortunately, the representative from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority could not attend today's meeting as planned.

Members of the Partnership Board have been attending both the Combined Authorities stakeholder group and a VOI (who provide the hire E-scooters) community group meeting.

8. Covid-19 Update- Graham Lewis

Graham gave an overview of the current local situation. Numbers are reducing in most areas, but Peterborough is slower to reduce. In patients are still relatively high.

Rapid flow testing is now available for those unable to work from home with pop up test centres around the county.

9. Board Priorities

GL just to let people know we are planning an event in July. Initially is was thinking about digital access and technology. We will be inviting various organizations to demonstrate what they have on offer to help people live independently as well as help people get online.

WW- We have someone in the organization “Mohammed Attiff” who could help demonstrate gadgets such as Alexas etc?

ACTION WW to put GL in touch with him.

10. Any Other Business

none