

**Carers in Hertfordshire  
LD Carers Forum  
Notes of meeting held Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Carers Present:</b> Doreen Turner, David Turner, Barbara, Jenny Young, Margaret Hopkins, Frances Turner, Mary Newton, Dan, Marie Scales  <b>Apologies:</b> James Gamble and Chris Cole Brenda Dalton and Eileen Mansell, Santo Mann</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Others Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carers in Hertfordshire:</b> Maria Kiely, Marion Schofield, Su Bartlett</li> <li>• <b>Other Professionals:</b> Adult Disability Service (formerly CDLT) Jo Hislop, Heather Belle (Carer Practitioners) Helen Holmes (Learning Mentor, Crossroads Care Hertfordshire North)</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Welcome by Chair</b></p> <p>Updates on meetings of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purple Star Strategy – funding was due to end December 2017 but have received further funding which allow programme to continue. Annual Health Checks –the template designed by Kirsten Lamb should improve the standard of Annual Health Checks. GPs still funded for undertaking Annual Health Checks and everyone over the age 14 should have one.</li> </ul> <p>The flu jab analysis is due out shortly and we will see how Herts did last year. Uptake has been low in the past with LD patients not on the posters as an identified group who should have flu jab. Although some LD patients will have had a flu jab as they are covered by other health issues promoting flu jabs to this group needs to be addressed</p> <p>The Mortality Review commenced in April 2017 to review the deaths of people with a learning disability aged 4 – 75. Some staff have been trained and a training day later this month will train the remainder. A review should be undertaken within 4 – 6 weeks of death and we need to think about how significant others are informed that the death of their loved one will be reviewed. If a person dies in hospital information on review could be included in the bereavement booklet. If you have any other suggestions for informing loved ones of a review of a death in hospital and any suggestions at all for deaths in the community <b>please contact Sue Maskell</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Disability Planning and Performance Group (LDDPPG) –</li> </ul>

no update

- Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) – Meeting Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June, James will report back next time. Please see below for reports from LDPB sub-groups. Please note that Carer Reps for LDPB are up for renewal, these are 3 year posts and 6 are required - 3 from each side of the county
- Life Long Learning Working Group – most recent meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April where there was discussion around using the annual survey to establish what people would like to learn and how information on what's available is developed and disseminated. Faith Walsh 0-25 together team is concerned that people in receipt of Direct Payments are using it to pay to train their Personal Assistants when free training is available from HCC. This free training needs to be promoted so DPs are used to pay for care. Next Meeting July
- Self- Assessment Framework (SAF) –no update
- Healthwatch – issues with bank accounts (Court of Protection) were raised, although not a health issue Healthwatch who will forward on comments to the relevant people. Also discussed was the Purple Strategy and how to establish the number of people in Herts with a LD who are caring for a relative or a friend

### **Sub-groups of the Partnership Board**

**Transport Group** – discussions on Herts Travel Wallet and issues on bus services being cut – no CiH rep on this group

**Keeping Safe Group** – discussing Court of Protection – lack capacity to make decisions so easy read not necessary and appointed deputies want to get the banks to sign up to easy read. PoA through the court should have easy read because – can make decisions with support  
Co-production – Carer and Service User Rep

Carers raised questions regarding fees for Deputyship and Appointeeship. The costs and forms to be completed are confusing

The Court of Protection (CoP) is where you should apply for Deputyship which allows you to set up and manage a bank account for the cared for person where they lack capacity. Where the cared for has capacity to make decisions with support and it is only their benefits that they need assistance to manage then Appointeeship should be applied for. Leonard Cheshire are funded by HCC to do this for Carers free of charge. CoP fees for Deputyship can be as much as £1000 but it is a one off fee

Some Carers don't want the responsibility of Appointeeship and are concerned that some of the residential homes are no longer prepared to be Appointees for their residents' benefits.

Also interviewed to establish whether Carers are 'fit' to manage benefits and

	<p>The group would like more information on Deputyship and Appointeeship.  <b>Speakers to be arranged by Sue Maskell</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation /Guest Speaker</b>  Adult Disability Service, Jo Hislop, Carer Practitioner, gave a presentation, a copy of which is attached with these minutes  The following questions were asked:-</p> <p>Can the cared for's social worker undertake a Carers Assessment? Carers Assessments can be carried out by any member of the team</p> <p>What about Carers who have a learning disability? Carers who have a learning disability will have both Community Care Assessment and a Carers Assessment</p> <p>How frequently are Carers Assessments reviewed?  There will be a review 6 weeks after the assessment and annually thereafter unless Carers circumstances change</p> <p>Carers in the group raised concerns as to whether, in reality, Carers Assessments would be reviewed after 12 months</p> <p>In one Carer's experience their Carers Assessment had taken nearly 12 months. Jo explained that Carers Assessments might not be done in one go especially where the Carer provides care 24/7 and it is difficult to find an opportunity to discuss aspects of their caring role that they might not wish to discuss in front of the cared for but every effort should be made to enable the Carer to meet one to one with the worker undertaking the assessment.</p> <p>Carers felt that the reviewing of Carers Assessment after 12 months was unrealistic and Jo acknowledged that in reality ACS do not have the resources to review Carers Assessments every year and suggested that Carers call to request a review. The group would like this issue raised at the LDPB as it is an ongoing issue, one on which there has been little or no improvement in over the years.</p> <p>One Carer suggested should be down to the individual teams to establish who needs a CA or a review and make contact to offer the assessment/review. It should not be left for the Carer to make contact. The group were told that on the ACS computer system assessment dates go red when a review is due but there are often more reviews due than there are staff able to manage.</p> <p>If a Carer is in receipt of a Direct Payment as a result of their Carers</p>

Assessment will this stop after 12 months? Not if the payment is weekly – weekly payments will continue. However, if it was a one off Direct Payment Carers will need to contact the team and request a review as one off payments are made once.

What about under 18s that are doing the caring? Carer Practitioner going into the home to carry out Carers Assessment might identify where there is a Young Carer and make a referral to the Young Carers Team

Are contingency plans discussed/offered as a matter of course? Yes

Jo informed the group that they get a lot of referrals from the GP Carer Champions as cared for conditions can change and deteriorate and the GP is often the first port of call.

**Helen Holmes, Learning Mentor, Crossroads Care Hertfordshire North**

Talked to the group about the countywide initiative to support people who, due to crime, threat of homelessness, illness, disability and/or (current/past) caring role, need support to progress into learning, volunteering and/or paid employment

Helen's role is to mentor unemployed current/former carers who want to return to work

Helen's notes are included with these minutes

There are a number of partners within the project which funded by The Big Lottery and matched by European social fund

**STRIVE** adults over 19 who have barriers to employment – outcomes could be paid job or progress to that point through volunteering/work experience

Herts Youth Futures – supporting 15 – 19 and care leavers up to 21 and young people with disabilities up to 25

**MILE** – helping people who have debts at risk of losing house affected by changes in benefits – working through housing associations to support people to develop budgeting skills and support them in to employment

**HAFSL** refer or you can self-refer and they will assign a learning mentor to visit

Questions put to Helen were as follows

Is the initiative supported by DWP as a recognised way in to work? Some people are penalised if they don't attend courses etc run by Job Centre.

When you lose EU funding how will project be maintained?

Don't know – would hope funders have considered this!

	<p>How many carers have you got into employment to date? HH gave case study – no qualifications/benefits trap – looked at adult apprenticeships and in doing so found a job which also gave the opportunity to learn and earn</p> <p>How do referrals come to you? Raising awareness of the project by doing presentations – trying to establish referral routes Carer/former carer can contact HH direct (or professional can with carers consent)</p> <p>Live in herts, unemployed and a barrier to employment – criteria Any from a disadvantaged group – referrals by central project team Hubs around the county operating dif days by dif partners safe and welcoming space where you can go get support Building Better Opportunities – HH to provide map of Hub locations HH to pass on details to train teams</p>
5	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Carers information day in Learning Disability Week Drop in at Stanborough Centre – Flyers on website Health Crime Strategy Consultation closes on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 Need to have a vote on a particular Hilary Gardener _ LD Nurse as speaker – to talk to group about training and then get – yes please Rachel – well-being team to talk? Yes please Recruitment onto Partnership Board – detailed roles of responsibility and support from former reps to support them, to be developed Sue Darker – ratio of staff to service users and carers. Currently 5 carers plus 3 deputies to cover leave 2/3 service users and their advocates No of professionals varies dependent on speaker/topic although at least one is a constant at every board (between 30-40 people) Numbers attending varies depending on theme of the day .i.e. Iain McBeath spoke at last board meeting hence it was popular – he asked carers/attendees for ideas to save money!!! Mudlarks summer scheme 16 -25 year olds</p>
6	<p><b>Date of next LD Forum</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017</b></p>

