

**Carers in Hertfordshire**  
**Notes of meeting LD Carers Forum**  
**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 – Wellbeing Room,**  
**Birchwood, Hatfield**



<b>1</b>	<b>Carers Present: 22</b>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Others Present:</b></p> <p><b>Guest Speaker</b>            Mark Harvey  Principal Social Worker and Head of (ADS) Adult Disability Service at Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)</p> <p><b>Other Professionals</b>    Shushma Kumar , Carer Practitioner at HCC</p> <p><b>Chair</b>                            Marie Scales – LDPB Carer representative</p> <p><b>Carers in Herts</b>            Sue Maskell – Forum Leader</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marilyn Schofield – Carer Support Advisor</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Welcome by Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All carers and speakers were welcomed to the forum, informed that it is a very relaxed and informal session enabling carers to participate in the discussion.</li> <li>• Introductions around the room of all attending.</li> <li>• Notes and matters arising from earlier forums.</li> <li>• Reports from:</li> <li>• LDPB – <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/adult-social-services/disability/learning-disabilities/learning-disability-partnership-board/learning-disability-partnership-board.aspx">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/adult-social-services/disability/learning-disabilities/learning-disability-partnership-board/learning-disability-partnership-board.aspx</a></li> <li>• Purple Star Strategy <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/adult-social-services/disability/learning-disabilities/my-health/purple-star-health-services-for-people-with-learning-disabilities.aspx">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/adult-social-services/disability/learning-disabilities/my-health/purple-star-health-services-for-people-with-learning-disabilities.aspx</a></li> <li>• Healthwatch Herts - <a href="https://www.healthwatchhertfordshire.co.uk/">https://www.healthwatchhertfordshire.co.uk/</a></li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Presentation from Guest Speaker Mark Harvey;</b>  This can found on the Carers in Herts website via this link  <a href="http://www.carersinherts.org.uk/downloads/have-your-say/learning-disability-1/668-ads-team-changes-c4a-forum-january-2018-1/file">http://www.carersinherts.org.uk/downloads/have-your-say/learning-disability-1/668-ads-team-changes-c4a-forum-january-2018-1/file</a></p> <p><b>Carers Questions and Marks Answers re presentation talk:</b></p> <p>Q. Are we going to have named workers so it's easier to contact them? A.</p>

Only for people with Challenging behaviour.

Q. Can we please have named social workers, this is so important as without carers feel very distant to the service i.e. carers kept at arm's length? A. We have a lot of difficulty with this due to staff turnover and recruitment. At the moment only people with Challenging Behaviour have a named worker, but we are investing in more staff and will be looking at this.

Q. Regarding recruitment, will leaving the EU affect your staffing issues? A. Yes it could well affect this. However we are working hard on training at recruitment.

Q. People that move to supported living in another Herts area or out of County, will they stay with the team of social workers that placed them? A. Out of County people will stay with the team that placed them but others that move within the County will come under a locality team for the new area as they will be more aware of local communities, facilities and offers there.

Q. Annual reviews for both service users and carers. Will you be able to do these in a timely fashion? A. The team are attempting to achieve an 80% success on this; however the team is still understaffed due to recruitment difficulties.

Q. Why is there not a leaflet that accompanies the letter regarding carer's assessments that explains what they are and what they set out to achieved? We ask this because many carers are put off by the word assessment as they feel they are being judges on their abilities to care. A. Mark agreed that there should be and that there is a leaflet on HCC website

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/adult-social-services/factsheets/carers-assessment-what-you-need-to-know-a5.pdf>

Q. Could HCC target their Day Services/Centres to provide better provision for PMLD? Currently people have to travel out of County i.e. to Barnet to get the correct facilities. A. You are right, We do need to look at provisions that HCC can provide.

Q. Where do I look for a list of Day Services? A. Herts Help give direct information advice and guidance. Or the HCC website

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/adult-social-services/day-services-and-activities/day-services-in-hertfordshire.aspx>

Q. When will the public really know more about the Day services changes that hit the headlines last year? A. In the next 6 months there will be more news and Ruth Harrington from HCC will link with Carers in Herts to keep carers in the loop.

Q. There is little or no education facilities for people with LD who are over 25. Why are people abandoned and written off like this? A. We are hoping that the personal budgets will help with this but we know there needs to be more on offer.

**5 Any Other Business, Closing comments and information**

One of our Carers asked about contacts for services near Stevenage for his daughter who has PMLD. These were some suggestions offered by other carers.

	<p><b>Hertfordshire care provider association</b> <a href="https://www.hcpa.info/">https://www.hcpa.info/</a>  <b>Smallgoodstuff</b> <a href="https://www.smallgoodstuff.co.uk/search/?what=&amp;where=hertfordshire">https://www.smallgoodstuff.co.uk/search/?what=&amp;where=hertfordshire</a> identified 27 providers in Hertfordshire, many localised service in Bishop's Stortford.  <b>Guideposts Ware</b> <a href="https://www.guideposts.org.uk/Pages/Category/hertfordshire">https://www.guideposts.org.uk/Pages/Category/hertfordshire</a>  <b>Herts Directory</b> <a href="https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/service.page?id=CNYermzhlnU">https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/service.page?id=CNYermzhlnU</a>  <b>Dolphins Swimming Club</b> <a href="http://www.stevenage-dolphins.org/">http://www.stevenage-dolphins.org/</a>  <b>Stanborough Lakes</b> cycling (Easyriders), <a href="https://www.cyclinguk.org/cycle-centre/stanborough-park">https://www.cyclinguk.org/cycle-centre/stanborough-park</a>  <b>Riding for Disabled</b> <a href="http://www.rda.org.uk/rda-groups/?searchPostcode=sg1+2qa&amp;searchGroup=">http://www.rda.org.uk/rda-groups/?searchPostcode=sg1+2qa&amp;searchGroup=</a>  It seems that there are two groups within a couple of miles of Stevenage  <b>Disabled Sailing</b> <a href="http://www.rya.org.uk/wheresmynearest/Pages/Organisation.aspx?num=593621&amp;OrgType=5">http://www.rya.org.uk/wheresmynearest/Pages/Organisation.aspx?num=593621&amp;OrgType=5</a></p> <p><b>Other comments to record:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One carer said she had waited over 5 months after requesting an annual review for a carer's assessment.</li> <li>• See presentation link for format of the proposed Adult Disability Services (ADS) teams</li> <li>• Asperger's Team – now integrated into the ADS team with dedicated workers</li> <li>• One carer was very encouraged to hear re locality teams taking over when people move to other Herts area. Emphasis is to make sure all information and history of the service user is carried over with them to make for good hand over.</li> </ul> <p><b>Carers and the speakers were thanked for attending and invited to stay for lunch.</b></p> <p><b>If there are any issues that carers would like to look at in future forums then please let Sue Maskell know on 01992 586969 (office) or email direct to <a href="mailto:sue.maskell@carersinherts.org.uk">sue.maskell@carersinherts.org.uk</a></b></p>
6	<p><b>Date of next LD Forum</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday June 5th 2018 at The Sportsman Room, Birchwood, Hatfield. A light lunch is provided following the Forum. Please call 01992 586969 to book a place.</b></p>