

**Carers in Hertfordshire**  
**LD Carers Forum**  
**Notes of meeting held Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**October 2018**



<b>1</b>	<b>Carers Present: 18</b>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Others Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair - James Gamble</li> <li>• Carers in Hertfordshire - Sue Maskell, Sue Felgate, Maria Kiely</li> <li>• Apologies Marie Scales</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Welcome by Chair</b></p> <p>Updates on meetings</p> <p><b>Purple Star Strategy</b>          Continues its success with a further 5 GP's Surgeries receiving their Purple Star  <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></p> <p><b>Learning Disability Planning and Performance Group</b>          Kirsten Lamb is retiring and will be standing down as chair, December meeting will be her last but she hopes that she has found another GP to take her place by then.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reminder; Flu immunisation has started all carers entitled to one.</li> <li>○ Kirsten Lamb raised this issue with both CCG's around background research for pneumonia vaccination. People with Learning Disabilities who have a history of chest infections can ask their GP for this immunisation regardless of their age. It is a single vaccination.</li> <li>○ A project is being set up regarding advance care planning to be part of the Annual Review</li> <li>○ Personal Budgets, an increasing number of 18 – 25 now have personal budgets.</li> <li>○ <b>Annual Health checks statistic for last year HV CCG 69% and E&amp;N CCG 64%</b></li> <li>○ People with a learning disability that are in paid employment is split between less than 16 hours over 16 hours and Zero Contracts</li> </ul> <p><b>Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)</b>          The Learning Disability draft for 2019 – 2024 Strategy is out for consultation  <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/adult-social-services/consultation-on-the-learning-disabilities-strategy-2019-2024.aspx#">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/adult-social-services/consultation-on-the-learning-disabilities-strategy-2019-2024.aspx#</a> Carers in Herts have organised a consultation workshop to look at this this draft which will be held in Hatfield on Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> October, 10am to 12,30pm followed by a sandwich</p>

lunch. We want carer's views and opinions on the draft, Tracey Brennen, Commissioning Manager, Learning Disabilities Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team at Hertfordshire County Council will be attending to give carers a brief overview and then hold a question and answers session. After that we will facilitate a short workshop to ask the question, 'Does the strategy address carers' priorities'. Followed by a sandwich lunch. If interested in attending please email [sue.maskell@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:sue.maskell@carersinherts.org.uk) asap, spaces are limited.

Also worth a read is the Governments **green paper for the Future of Adult Social Care**. See link where you can send a response should you choose. <https://futureofadultsocialcare.co.uk/>

### **Life Long Learning Working Group**

Re scheduled for November. Oakland's College have asked one of the other 3 regional colleges to replace them at the meetings as they no longer have the capacity to attend.

### **Self- Assessment Framework (SAF)**

Next meeting is Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> October. There is currently a survey asking people of their experience of the SAF which, going forward, will help to organise how the National SAF runs in the future. You can read the explanation and rationale below in italics. If you click on the link below 'SAF survey for people and families' (in red) it will take you straight to the online survey. [SAF survey for people and families](#)

*'The Learning disability Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) was a helpful way for the council and local health and social care organisations to check how things were going with people and families, and make local plans for services. Since this stopped being funded, only some areas have kept using the SAF. It was reviewed a few years ago but the changes were not implemented at the time. We are really keen to hear the views of people with learning disabilities and their families and supporters, about what they thought of the SAF and how they can be heard and influence change in their area.*

*We hope you will be able to take 10 minutes to let us know what you think. You can take part in this up until 3rd September 2018. Please feel free to let others know about it. You can take part in this survey online [here](#). There is an easy read version of this, which we will print and send to whoever wants it if they email [office@ndti.org.uk](mailto:office@ndti.org.uk) or call 01225 789135.*

*NDTi will be summarising people's views after that time, to share with NHS England, Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care to inform the decision about what happens next with the SAF. We will also share publicly what we find'*

### **HealthWatch**

HealthWatch Hertfordshire have decided to cancel the Learning Disability Service Watch Group meetings due to manager Tom Barrasso leaving, plus a number of other staff vacancies. They will review how best to meet the needs of the learning disability community and the group in the future and will hold the next Service Watch Group meeting early in the New Year to discuss their plans. In the meantime they will continue exploring how to take forward their work on the Annual Health Check project and will also continue to work with the Learning Disability Partnership Board and other groups.

Geoff Brown, Chief Executive on behalf of Barbara Suggitt, SWG Chair Office: 01707 275978



#### 4. **Presentation /Guest Speaker**

Presentation from Mark Harvey, Principal Social Worker, Adult Disability Team, Hertfordshire County Council. Mark gave a presentation and explained the **Connected Lives Scheme** to carers. He also spent time to explain more about **Mental Capacity Assessments (MCA)** as issues surrounding the Act were brought up by carers the last time he attended.

##### **The Connected Lives assessment framework – Started in March (see presentation attached)**

- Social Workers can now sign off their own assessments which speeds things up instead of having to wait for approval from a line manager who has never even met the service user.
- The social Worker can also have access to the budget and can sign off crisis support.
- Another time saver for the client is that referrals for Learning Disabilities will go directly to the service team rather than through the See and Solve service.
- Personal Budgets - Old system for a Personal Budget assessment had 4 stages, the final stage being a 30 page document. However the simplified new system consists of one assessment with a check back after 6 weeks.
- Introduction in 2-3 months of Service Link Officers – These will help service users with administration issues, debt and how they can spend their Direct payments

##### **Mental Capacity Act** (see presentation)

This consists of 5 principles;

1. Assume capacity
2. Maximise capacity
3. Unwise decisions – not to be treated as lack of capacity.
4. Best interest
5. Least restrictive option.

The Mental capacity Act test is in two parts

1. Diagnostic – is there an impairment or disturbance in the functioning of a person's mind and brain?
2. Functional – is the impairment sufficient that the person lacks the capacity to make a particular decision?

Carers were interested in both of the presentations and appreciate Marks time he gives them and the user friendly way he explains thing.

5.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Keith Smith, Head of Consultancy for the British Institute of Learning Disabilities attended to give a short talk and hand out some information regarding Hertfordshire's Transforming Care programme. Keith was interested in getting carers views on how local families and carers have been involved in the programme, and how much awareness they had of it.</p> <p>The main points that carers fed back where that there are so many projects and schemes in HCC that many carers have lost track of what's what and find it difficult to keep up with the changes. Other comments suggested that it all seemed to be done in 'teams' and was not crossing over or getting shared with other professionals let along the carers or service users. Changes should be less 'independent processes' so all involved in Learning Disabilities are aware of the actions and propositions of others. Keith has sent two attachments and welcomes any other feedback from carers via myself <a href="mailto:sue.maskell@carersinherts.org.uk">sue.maskell@carersinherts.org.uk</a></p>
6.	<p><b>Date of next LD Forum is Tuesday 4th December 2018. At Birchwood Leisure Centre Hatfield</b></p> <p>Susan Shanahan, who is the Trading Standards officer for Hertfordshire County Council will be our guest speaker. Susan will be looking at the various types of scams around and suggesting how to avoid them. So if you have any specific queries you are interested in her covering let me know so I can give her a heads up in advance.</p> <p>We have also been asked to spare 15 mins of the forum for a short consultation regarding the types of courses carers would like to see offered by Carers in Herts, so please have a think about that as well.</p>