

Rotherham Learning Disability Partnership Board



Notes of the Meeting Friday 18th January 2013 10.15 to 11.55 am

Voting Members

At the meeting:

John Williams	Learning Disability Service (Chair)
Jan Frost	Housing Services – RMBC
Shona McFarlane	Director of Health and Well Being - RMBC
Alison Owen	Regional Forum Representative
Kate Tufnell	Head of Contracts & Service Improvement - CCG

Who said they could not come to the meeting:

Patricia Russell	Councillor – RMBC	Co-Chair
Robert Parkin	People's Representative	Co-Chair
Matt Gladstone	Director of Commissioning, Policy and Performance – RMBC	
Ann McMahon	Carer Representative	

Sorry

Who did not come to the meeting:

Bryan Adams	People's Representative
Linda Jarrold	Voluntary Action Rotherham
Brian Wood	Children & Young People's Service – RMBC

Key:

CCG
Clinical Commissioning Group

RMBC
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

RAP
Rotherham Advocacy Partnerships

RDASH
Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation

Non-Voting Members

At the meeting:

Sally Ferguson	Speakup
Sandra Grinnell	Learning Disability Service
Heather Rice	Deputy Director - RDASH (left at 11.25 am)

Also at the meeting:

Claire Smith	For Matt Gladstone / Janine Parkin
Nigel Mitchell	RMBC – for item 3 (left at 10.40 am)
Miles Crompton	RMBC – for item 4 (left at 11.35 am)
Wendy Foster	RMBC – for item 4 (left at 11.35 am)

Taking the notes of the meeting:

Jo Frear	Learning Disability Service
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John opened the meeting. Not many people had managed to get here today, possibly because of the snow.



1

Introductions + Apologies

The meeting started with introductions being made (people said who they were).



Jo then read out the people who said they could not come to the meeting (voting members) – see page 1.



2

Partnership Board – What we can do better / supporting service users

It was agreed to have this presentation at the next meeting.



3

Safeguarding Adults Training

Nigel Mitchell, Learning and Development Manager in the Council came for this item and explained that part of his job is to oversee safeguarding adult training. Nigel said that his presentation gives some general information about safeguarding training and some more detailed information about who has had this training.



Nigel gave a presentation which included:



- **Safeguarding training** – for example, the Council organise training for social care workers and workers from different organisations and groups.



- **Safeguarding Courses** – Workers do different levels of training for their job. Basic level training is done on a computer and other training courses have a teacher.

- **Levels of Training** – There are 4 levels of training – bronze, silver, gold and platinum.

Agency	2010/2011	2011/2012
Local Authority	310	249
Independent Sector	428	1043
Health	415	508
Voluntary Sector	67	29
Police/Probation	28	0
Service users/carers	0	13
Students	35	32
Other	5	16
Totals	1288	1890

- **Agency Training Records (2010 to 2012)** – Records are kept of workers who have been trained. Lots of work had taken place to get more people trained from the independent sector – 428 in 2010/11, 1,043 in 2011/12.

- **Learning Disability Training Records (April to November 2012)** – The numbers of workers who went on training.



Shona asked Nigel about the number of provider services who have been on Form 1 training. This is training for social workers about completing a form to check whether someone is safe or needs an investigation. Nigel agreed to check this out.



John said that the numbers show that some providers have taken up training more than others. It was noted that some providers may have done update training online – and this information was not available for today's presentation.



Jan told the meeting about her experience of using the safeguarding e-learning. She suggested adding some instructions at the end to tell people what they need to do next to be able to take the test (assessment). Nigel agreed to look into this.



Action:

- 3a Nigel to check out why providers have been on Form 1 training.
- 3b Nigel to look at the elearning package to see if anything could be made better.

4 Benefit Changes

Miles Crompton, Policy & Partnership Officer in the Council, came to the meeting to talk about the benefit changes. Wendy Foster has come to talk about housing issues around benefits.



Miles explained that he is doing lots of road shows to tell people about "Welfare Reform", which are the big changes to benefits that the Government is making. People who are affected by the changes will need to start thinking now about how they will manage the changes and will need to plan ahead.

Miles went on to give a presentation and people talked about some of the issues. Some of the main points included:



- Savings of £18 billion are planned by 2015. The Autumn Statement said there are further savings of £3.7 billion. For Rotherham this will mean a loss of benefit income of around £118 million.



- There will be a move to online applications for benefits and other things – instead of having face to face contact and paper form filling. This will cause problems for people who can't use a computer. It will also be a big issue for people with learning disabilities. The online application will only be available in English, which will cause problems for people whose first language is not English.

- Council Tax Benefit – From April 2013 the Government is stopping the current national Council Tax Benefit scheme and will be replaced by a local scheme of Council Tax Support. Consultation is taking place in Rotherham about this and there are a range of options that have been put forward – such as charging people who have houses that have been empty for a long time. There are about 16,000 working age people in Rotherham who currently receive Council Tax benefit but will have to pay some Council Tax from 1st April 2013.



- Housing Benefit – also called “bedroom tax”. People who have 1 / 2 spare bedrooms will receive less benefit. This means that Housing Benefit will no longer be paid on the size of a house but on how many people live there. People will have to find extra money to pay for it or move into a smaller house.

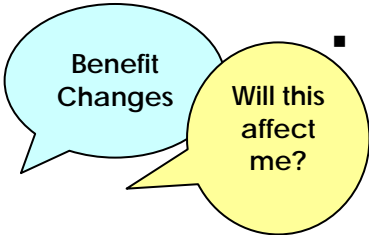
Crisis Loan is an interest-free loan to help with essential costs (like food, somewhere to stay etc) after an emergency or disaster, eg a flood or fire in your home.

Community Care Grant does not have to be paid back. It is to meet a need for community care, eg return to the community after being in care or to help you stay in your home rather than go into care, etc.

- Crisis Loans and Community Care Grant is being replaced by a Council support scheme and there will be less money for this (30%). There will be a change over from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to the Council. Rotherham are currently working on its scheme. In Rotherham there are 6,000 people who have needed this type of help.
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is starting to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA). In Rotherham there are 11,500 working age people who get DLA. There will be an assessment about a person's ability to carry out activities. There will be 2 parts to PIP – Daily Living and Mobility – and each will have 2 rates (standard or enhanced). Lots of people are worried about this assessment and will need support.
- Benefit Cap – Later in the year there will be a weekly benefit cap of £500 per family. This means that the amount of benefits a family can get each week cannot be more than £500.



- Universal Credit is a new single payment for people who are looking for work or on a low income. It will be paid one month in arrears (this means money for January will be paid in February etc) and to one person in the family. Families may have problems because they are used to having money paid to them every week or fortnight and will have think about how they manage their money over the month. Being paid in arrears could mean some people end up owing money from the first payment.



- In Rotherham work is taking place to tell people about all the changes and how it may affect them. There are a number of Benefit Changes leaflets available and a staff guide. Groups have been set up to work on certain areas (such as the Benefit Cap, People In Crisis, etc) which are led by Council Officers or Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR).



Action:
4a Miles agreed to check out with Judi Kyte whether Benefit Changes leaflets have been sent out to GP Practices.


5a People's Issues

It was agreed not to have this agenda item at today's meeting.

5b National Forum Feedback

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting, when Alison can give a presentation about feedback from the National Forum and the Regional Forum, which is taking place next week.



 **There was a break for tea / coffee – 10.50 to 11.00 am**

6 Carers' Issues

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

7 Inclusion North Membership

Inclusion North have contacted the Board about becoming members again from April onwards. The Board talked about this and agreed that the position had not changed from last year.





7a **Action:**
To let Inclusion North know that the Partnership Board had considered their request and had decided not to be a member – **John / Jo.**

8 **Winterbourne Update**



John told the meeting that the final report from Winterbourne has now been received, which gives responsibilities to the Council and Health to respond to. For example, things such as:

- Stopping all inappropriate placements by 2014 – so that every person with challenging behaviour gets the right care in the right place.
- Better checking of providers.



John said that we have some people placed out of Rotherham – about 7 people in low secure places (similar to Winterbourne) and 3 people in secure hospital type accommodation. Each person will need an action plan and either a plan to come back to Rotherham or, if not, we need to know what kind of care they are getting. Shona, Kate and John are meeting to talk about this later today.



Shona explained that the Council's Contracting and Reviewing Officers (CAROs) are important because they go into homes to make sure they are meeting all the contract standards. They must be able to find those homes where things are going wrong much faster and work better with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

John said that we have a lot of people placed in Rotherham from other areas and we are being contacted about the homes.



9 **Safe In Rotherham Update**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

10 **Notes of the Last Meeting – 14th December 2012 + Matters Arising**



John quickly went through the notes of the last meeting to remind people what had happened. Everyone said that the notes from the meeting were okay.

10a Welfare Reforms



Sally said that Speakup are supporting people to their assessment meetings, sometimes because their Social Workers can't go with them. It has been useful for Speakup to have some information from the Social Workers to take to the meetings.



10b Let's Talk Employment Event

John said that we thinking about moving the March event to May because there is a similar event taking place on the same day, which we are hoping to link into.

10c "Making it Real"



Sally told the meeting that a group is being set up to look at this. It is about checking social care services against 6 priorities. A questionnaire is being developed for people whose use social care services to see what they think. Priorities for Rotherham will then be chosen from this.

11 Any Other Business

None.

12 Date and Time of Next Meeting:



Friday 8th March 2013
@ 10.00 am



John closed the meeting and thanked people for coming to the meeting.

