



Notes of the Disabled People Forum Meeting
Thursday 22nd November 2012 10.30am
Carlisle Business Centre

Present:

Cath Stevenson (Chair)	Emmerson Walgrove
Paul Deary	Nusrat Naheed
Katie Matthews	Geoff Watson
Omar Sardar	Dave Parr
Richard Helliwell	Titch Kavanagh
Nazma Nazir	Alice Brown
Jill Grant	Nigel Hughes
Gill Bowskill	David Blythe
Teyyeb Rashid	Ann Carroll
Lizzie Wharton	Nisa Almas
Michelle King	Linda Owers

In Attendance:

Sandra Brown - BACC
Kath Beer - BACC
Phil Cutler - BACC
Yolande Brown - BACC

Apologies: Linda Hanson, Janet Cuff, Dennis Boland, Paul Anderson, Mary Baker, Joan Fenton, Alice Brown, Rita Exley, Jill Grant, Sue Crowe and Tariq Ahmed

1. Welcome

Cath welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given

2. Apologies

Apologies noted above.

3. Guest Speaker

Dave Ross- Head of Patient Experience and Engagement

Cath introduced Dave Ross, Head of Patient Experience and Engagement who came to the meeting to talk to the forum about Healthwatch.

Dave spoke about how the role fulfilled at the moment by Links will be replaced by a new organisation called Healthwatch. This will be the new patient and public voice across health and social care and will have new rights and powers. The local Healthwatch organisation will be supported by Healthwatch England nationally which is part of the Care Quality Commission.

Dave outlined how the health service would be organised in the district after the abolition of the Primary Care Trusts. There will be three Clinical Commissioning Groups in the Bradford district. Each group will be made up of doctors and health professionals and have two lay members. Clinical Commissioning Groups must account to their local communities.

Dave said the aim of Healthwatch was to gather the views and experiences of people who use care services and also the views of the wider community. It will feed this information through to Healthwatch England. It will also provide information about access to services.

Dave then invited questions from the audience.

Q. Healthwatch provides information and access, NHS complaints and advocacy; how is this different from Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)?

A. Each NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) has a PALS service, from next April the PCTs won't exist and so these PALS services won't exist. Some PALS services in parts of the NHS will continue, but Healthwatch's role will have a community focus and access point.

Q. How will it be ensured that Healthwatch information will be accessible?

A. Healthwatch will be expected to work as a network and should work in partnership and recognize other groups and forums. This should mean it has an understanding of other groups' concerns.

Q. Will the Healthwatch board be independent and manage itself?

A. Yes, it will manage itself and be independent.

Q. What is happening to complaints and advocacy in Bradford?

A. Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Commissioning board have staff to deal with complaints. It has not yet been finalized how this will be structured. The new structures must show they have a complaints process.

Q. Are the Lay members of the Clinical Commissioning Groups in post yet?

How and when were they appointed and what organisations had the role of

appointing them? Q. Is there something in the constitution about how the lay members are appointed?

A. The interim appointments are now in post. These posts may be extended to allow fuller appointments. The process for appointments is covered in the constitution, but there is flexibility within this.

Q. Why has the government decided to change the service now? Is it money?

A. Money may be a factor, but as a population we are living longer and as a result are developing more long term conditions, so changes to the health service are needed to address these changes.

Cath Stevenson thanked Dave for coming and giving his talk about the upcoming changes. Anyone who wanted further information could get in touch with Dave through BACC.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Proposed by Emmerson Walgrove, seconded by Gill Bowskill. There were no matters arising.

5. Update on Caring For Our Future

Phil explained Jeanette Sunderland had contacted him about holding a meeting with Norman Lamb, Health minister following on from the Caring For Our Future meeting held in September. This would hopefully be arranged for the New Year.

He said a report from the meeting has been distributed and submitted to the Department of Health.

6. Any Other Business

Whetley Hill - Emmerson gave an update on the plans for Whetley Hill. He outlined the effect the charging policy had had on the numbers of people attending the centre. He said there was a need for clear and accurate information from the council. He said service users were confused by the three options put forward by the council.

Taxi Charging - Phil said the campaign is still ongoing. At the moment legal advice was being sort about risks to individuals if they made a complaint.

School Disability Awareness Campaign - Peter Warwick said he had been asked to give some more talks on disability awareness at High Craggs School and invited members of the forum to contact him if they wanted to join the group. It was suggested the talks could be taken to other schools across the district

UK Disability Month - Phil said UK disability month begins tomorrow. On 7th December there is an event on Hate Crime at the University of Bradford.

Rally 2nd November - Twenty to Thirty people held a protest in Centenary Square and presented councilors with the Tipping Point Report. Emmerson read out letters from Phillip Davies and George Galloway in reply to the letter sent out by the Forum about the report.

Bradford City Run - The forum was reminded that Bradford City Run will be held on 2nd December.

Next meeting - Meeting on Hate Crime scheduled for the end of January 2013.