

**Minutes of the West Berkshire Council's
Disability External Scrutiny Board
Meeting 25th October 2012**

Item	Notes
Board Members in attendance	Alan Fleming (Chair), Mick Hutchins, Norma Weaver, John Carr, Sue Hinks, Keith Hester
Others	Councillor Pamela Bale, Deborah Sowerby (Coordinator, WBILN (West Berkshire Independent Living Network), Elaine Walker (Principal Policy Officer)
1. Introduction and apologies.	<p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies: There were apologies received from Jan Rothwell, Kate Green and Jan Evans (Head of Adult Social Care)</p>
2. Review of Adult Social Care changes made in April 2012.	<p>MH requested that the following points be forwarded to Jan Evans for response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There appear to be a greater number of assessments being carried out since the budget cuts which is considered to be positive. - The following information was requested for 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 (first 6 months): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of appeals received regarding social care • Number of cases referred on to the Ombudsman • Number of cases reaching legal proceedings - MH advised that he had discussed the consultation process with Nick Carter and had been told it was being

Item	Notes
	<p>revamped. In particular he noted that users needed to be involved at an earlier stage of the consultation process.</p> <p>- MH raised an issue around the circulation of information within the district. He raised the point that the Council had information relating to many people who would benefit from the WBILN and other organisations, but this information was not accessible to him. Recognising the requirements of the Data Protection Act, MH suggested that the Council ought to have a policy to enable them to forward information on behalf of a third party where it was potentially useful. The third party would supply postage costs etc.</p> <p>- Personal budgets would be discussed with Jan Evans on 11 December at 4pm at Broadway House. It is recognised that there remains a lot of confusion surrounding personal budgets and individuals not being aware of what their personal budget is.</p>
<p>3. Minutes and Matters Arising.</p>	<p>The draft minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2012 were approved as a true and correct record.</p> <p>The response to actions arising from the previous meeting were circulated to the Board. Additional updates were received regarding:</p> <p>5 – MH advised that the WBILN would be holding a Master class on social care and would like users of social care and carers to be involved. This would take place on 23 November 2012.</p> <p>The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed annually on 3 December, and this year the WBILN will be holding an event at the British Legion. The event will be themed to recognise that ‘disability is not just for the Paralympics’. The event will be held in the afternoon with details to be confirmed.</p> <p>KH asked how the event would cater for those not living in Newbury. MH replied that meetings held outside of Newbury rarely attracted a good response, however he had been considering how to inform a wider geographic area of the WBILN and the events that it arranges. After discussion, the group decided to send information to JC who would circulate via email to Parishes, schools, and the Newbury and Reading Talking Newspaper.</p> <p>Action 1: JC to circulate relevant information via email as required.</p>
<p>4. Health and Well Being Board</p>	<p>Joanne Alner of Berkshire NHS introduced the Health and Well Being Board, and in particular a consultation currently taking place to shape the priorities and focus of the Board.</p>

Item	Notes
	<p>Following changes in Public Health in 2010, a shadow form of the Health and Well Being Board was established with Graham Jones as Chair and a number of Councillors as representatives on the Board. The Board meets quarterly in a public forum and will become a firm arrangement in April 2013. The aim of the Board is to join the resources of the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and deliver what is important to the area.</p> <p>The Health and Well Being strategy considered many aspects of health in the district, and prioritised those considered most important to address. The process of consultation would be used to inform any gaps in the strategy and possibly to reprioritise the areas to be addressed. Joanne Alner clarified that whilst the headline information may not include every aspect under consideration, the action plans that sit beneath each headline can capture these.</p> <p>There is public representation on the Board through Councillors and Healthwatch.</p> <p>The document will be living and monitored by the Health and Well Being Board.</p> <p>Issues raised by the group were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthwatch is not a representative voice for the public <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PB advised that this issue was being addressed by consideration of who a representative voice ought to be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty affects all disabled people, the strategy focuses on disabled children and parents. • There doesn't appear to be consideration of the mental and emotional health of children with disabled parents, or a parent whose child is born disabled. • A greater focus should be given to the views of users as they have the most knowledge of how a system actually works in practice. <p>AF asked about whether the cause of diabetes was considered in assessing risk, specifically those who became Type 2 diabetic as a result of medication. Joanne Alner explained that being overweight was a risk factor that could be addressed and would have a significant impact on the number of people with diabetes. The intention of the information shown was not to capture and address every cause, but those with the greatest impact.</p> <p>MH asked where the numbers were sourced for the ageing population that was commonly talked about, and</p>

Item	Notes
	<p>suggested that as the figures were based on people with a healthier lifestyle, that they may no longer be accurate. Joanne Alner suggested that medical advances might counter the change in lifestyle, but that ultimately we wouldn't know how accurate the figures are until we get there. AF said this provided a good case for not cutting funding for schemes such as Walking to Health. Deborah Sowerby replied that more work should be done by existing groups, in this case the Ramblers for example. They should be making their services more accessible, not relying on others to provide services for them.</p> <p>Joanne Alner agreed to include many of these points through the action plans within the Health and Well Being strategy. (See attached email from Joanne Alner.)</p>
<p>5. Terms of Reference</p>	<p>The group agreed that the Board had been set up to represent the views of individuals to the Council, and that where individuals were able to bring the views of others to the meeting, that was to be welcomed. However the group did not wish to expand to including organisational representation.</p> <p>Action 2: JR to inform Mencap of the decision</p> <p>The group went on to discuss the terms of reference, reflecting that as the disability equality scheme no longer existed, the group did not have a firm overview of activity any more. EW suggested that the Council's Forward Plan be referred to prior to meetings as this brought together all the decisions that were due to be made in the coming months and would allow the group to ask to discuss items with a relevant Officer before the decision is made.</p> <p>[A link to the Forward Plan is: http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1594]</p> <p>Action 3: All to forward suggestions for the terms of reference to EW.</p> <p>Regarding membership: consideration was given to how to increase membership to those groups not currently represented on the Board. It was agreed that this would be reconsidered at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action 4: EW to circulate original list of disability groups used to create a membership for the Board.</p>
<p>7. Equality Objectives</p>	<p>The equality objectives 2012-16 have been circulated for comments or views and have now been published. An annual report is due to be published in January 2013 setting out our progress against the objectives.</p>
<p>8. AOB</p>	<p>Transport Forum – The group is meeting regularly. The main comment from the last meeting was a recognition that</p>

Item	Notes
	<p>the real time signs are not working well.</p> <p>Home Care User Group – A meeting was held in May in Thatcham. Responses to issues raised will be circulated. A second user group was held in Theale with very poor attendance.</p> <p>Action 5: MH to forward responses to EW for circulation.</p> <p>Access Panel: Continues well and has achieved some results. There is an ongoing issue of a lack of affordable housing and homes for life. PB noted that the core strategy now required affordable housing from developments of five homes or more.</p> <p>JC asked whether other forms of photo identification could be used when applying for a Blue Badge as not everyone has a passport or drivers licence.</p> <p>JC also noted that although it is possible to apply for a Blue Badge a month before the previous one expires, they are not always processed in time, potentially leaving a person without a Blue Badge for a period of time.</p>
<p>9. Next meeting</p>	<p>Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 31st January 2013</p> <p>Main Agenda Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Planning, in particular the number of houses that are accessible for people with disabilities. Mental Health – (MH to invite a user to the meeting to share their views) Update on Adult Social Care personal budgets – Jan Evans Review of Terms of Reference and membership for the Board
<p>Meeting dates for 2012/13</p>	<p>Dates agreed for future meetings:</p> <p>Thursday 31st January 2013 in Committee Room 2 Market St, 10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.</p>
<p>Suggested</p>	<p>Thursday 25th April 2013 in Committee Room 1 Market St, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm</p>

Item	Notes
meeting dates for 2013/14	<p>Thursday 18th July 2013 in Committee Room 2 Market St, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm</p> <p>Thursday 17th October 2013 in Committee Room 2 Market St, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm</p> <p>Thursday 30th January 2014 in Committee Room 2 Market St, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm</p>