

## MINUTES

### ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: WEST ESSEX LOCALITY MEETING

**Date and Time** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 5pm – 7pm  
**Location** The Murray Hall, 106 Borders Lane, Loughton IG10 3SB  
**Organiser** Julie Harkus (minute taker)

**Attendees:** John Carr, Ann Nutt, Ken Hearn, Michael Walker, Sheila Bass, Sheila Caston, G Harris, Heather Paget, David Paget, Conrad Gorinsky, Margaret Fitch, Andrew Smith, Geoff Boughton, Cllr Chris Pond, David Wixley (Town & District Councillor), Beatrice Gorinsky, Chris Hudson, Gabriela Horecka, Julie Harkus  
**Guest speaker:** James Wilson, Putting People First Programme Office Manager, Essex County Council Social Care

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/ when
1	Welcome, Introductions & house-keeping	John Carr, Chairman, introduced himself and explained that this was the first meeting of the locality in the Loughton area. John then introduced Julie Harkus, Project Coordinator, who explained the housekeeping arrangements for the venue.	
2	Declarations of Interest	None.	
3	Self Directed Support – an explanation by James Wilson	<p>James gave a Power point presentation and the slides are available on request.</p> <p>James explained the Essex demographics – that the number of over 85 year olds will increase by 25% each year and that 25% of over 85 year olds will develop dementia. One third of this age group need constant care or supervision.</p> <p>People want better quality services that are personal to them and more control over decisions that affect them. They want the right support, at the right time, in the right place. They also want to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of who is paying. Self Directed Support (SDS) went live on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and nearly 2000 (new) service users have received a personal budget. The service user is at the centre of the process and carers should be involved if the service user</p>	

wants that.

Service user involvement has been very strong in the development of SDS. There is a carer representative on the board and the public have been consulted. There are links to service user groups including Essex Coalition of Disabled People (ECDP).

Personal budgets allow the flexible purchase of services. Cash is paid into a bank account and the service user's purchase of items/services is agreed. A pilot of how SDS will be offered to existing users is being carried out at the moment. The new process is at the pace of the service users. Social Care aims, as a minimum, to meet the national targets on ensuring it takes less than 28 days from initial contact for the service to be in place. For urgent or crisis type cases, interim packages can be put in the same day.

The resource allocation system is a tool that is used as part of the assessment to calculate the personal budget figure. This gives an indicative figure to plan to. Following support planning with the service user looking at what support will be required to best meet the service users' needs, the support is confirmed to ensure it is meeting the necessary needs of the service user.

Reablement is free and support lasts up to six weeks to allow people to live independently in their own home. Support might help the recipient to re-learn life skills like making a meal or help with mobility issues. This means that the person doesn't go into residential care.

The following questions were asked:

- Everyone seems to be working in partnership – are Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) being kept informed? – An information portal is being developed, incorporating voluntary sector databases. Village Agents are also aware of this as they are being developed as a hub of knowledge. The third sector is key to this and ECDP has played a key role. Ann Nutt reported that information and training is not getting through to CAB advisers on this subject – James will follow this up.
- What impact is this having on luncheon clubs? – James reported that this should have no direct impact. Research is going on to ensure that sustainable community services are funded rather than annual grant funding which does not support longevity and continuity for these types of services. In the future this will only have an impact on luncheon clubs if people, when taking the cash direct, choose to use the money to purchase another type of support.
- Does receiving SDS affect the amount and type of benefits I can receive? – When receiving an assessment for SDS you will have a Finance and Benefits advisor advise you on what benefits you are eligible for and what (if any) contribution you will make to your social care support. This is dependent on a number of factors. ECC have contracts with a number of

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		<p>support services who can also provide support and advise on this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The government has set up strategic groups for mental health and the provision of care – how does this fit in? – There is a stream of work looking at how funding is allocated to mental health service users. This is not yet live for mental health service users – a pilot is being developed with the mental health trusts.</li> <li>➤ Who checks that the package is fit for purpose? – An assessment is carried out and the service required to meet the needs is agreed; this is then signed off by the service manager. If the client is high risk then the package is reviewed more frequently and more support is given. If funds are mis-used, the managed form of personal budgets, where local authority holds control of the money, is adopted. A contingency pot of funding is held centrally.</li> </ul> <p>Any further questions can be raised via Julie Harkus who will forward them to James.</p> <p>James was thanked for attending the meeting and for his informative presentation.</p>	
4	The Big Care Debate	<p>Julie explained that the Government is working to create a new National Care Service for England that is fair, simple and affordable. The public are being asked how it should be structured and paid for by considering different options for reform.</p> <p>The Essex &amp; Southend LINK will submit a response collated from the locality responses and attendees were encouraged to take away a short briefing paper which included 3 questions. Julie informed that members could return their written responses to Chelmsford or telephone her at the office to deliver it verbally with a deadline of 23<sup>rd</sup> October.</p>	
5	Approval of Minutes of previous meeting – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2009	<p>John explained that it is difficult to approve minutes when meetings are held all over the west Essex area but the draft minutes had been circulated to all attendees of the September meeting for comment. Ken Hearn asked for his comment about Patient Participation Groups (page 3 item 7) to be amended to read – “a patient participation group had been established at the health centre and more should be encouraged to set up.” Michael Walker proposed their approval and Ken Hearn seconded.</p>	
6	Matters arising	<p><b>Page 3 item 6</b> – Comment was made that older people don’t moan enough about services they receive. Ann Nutt reported that the Essex Older People’s Planning group is under represented by west Essex. At least 50 people regularly attend and only 1 comes from west Essex so the locality isn’t having a voice. Their AGM is taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> November 10am at Chapter House, Chelmsford Cathedral. Sheila Bass offered to attend and Ann said she would arrange for the agenda</p>	AN

		<p>and papers to be sent to her.</p> <p><b>Page 3 item 7</b> – Julie reported that a steering group meeting had been arranged with Pam Hall, Deputy Director of Public Health on 28<sup>th</sup> October.</p>	
7	Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann Nutt informed everyone that the next County wide public meeting will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> December in Brentwood. The theme will be social care and Liz Chidgey, Deputy Director Adult Social Care will be speaking.</li> <li>• The discharge from hospital questionnaire was publicised and attendees were encouraged to take copies and return them by freepost. John remarked that when planning admittance with patients it is important that discharge requirements are noted. John and Julie had met with Darren Leech, Director of Delivery at Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) and it was clear that concerns about discharge are being taken seriously. Comment was made that at Whipps Cross Hospital some patients are removing the information booklet which should be retained at the end of the bed.</li> <li>• A member of the public asked what progress was being made with super bugs and John was able to report (following the meeting with Darren Leech) that PAH has had 1 case this year.</li> <li>• Chris Hudson gave an overview of the neonatal intensive care position for Essex and in particular the situation that has arisen in west Essex. The Epping Forest district needs affiliation to 2 neonatal networks – North East London and Addenbrookes. The 6 Paediatricians at PAH want to continue an existing relationship with University College Hospital rather than the NE London network – a difficult journey for parents but not ambulances. Members supported Chris’ argument and agreed that he should write on behalf of the locality to PAH. Also to be included in the letter is the requirement that the 5 Essex maternity units must provide level 2 care within 18 months.</li> <li>• Andrew Smith, public Governor North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust gave an update on mental health. Andrew Geldard was appointed Chief Executive of the trust in July and the trust’s annual meeting in 2010 will take place in Harlow. Involving Essex is obtaining views of service users to influence the design of future services. On 24<sup>th</sup> September NHS West Essex released the tender documents for the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) – a shorter form of therapy service which will be provided from July 2010. There was discussion about the closure of Roding House, Buckhurst Hill and the new Community Bridge Building service which Uttlesford Mind is contracted to provide. The drop in facility at Spurriers House, Harlow has been retained.</li> <li>• There was discussion on the local press coverage of the proposal by NHS West Essex to become a not for profit private company and the worries expressed by staff.</li> <li>• Gabriela Horecka introduced herself as the new Coordinator for North East Essex and resident of Harlow. Gabriela will deputise</li> </ul>	CH

		<p>for Julie when she is on annual leave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Paget reported that she attended a Children &amp; Young People's Strategy meeting where the recruitment of midwives was highlighted as an issue (salaries in London are £3000 higher). Heather commented at this meeting that all new babies have the APGAR test and could this be used to monitor the negative effects of the lack of midwives/maternity staff?</li> </ul>	
8	Dates of future meetings	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 2pm – 4pm Council Chamber, Harlow Civic Centre, CM20 1WG. Guest speaker: Vince McCabe, Managing Director Community Services NHS West Essex	ALL

