

## MINUTES

### ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: WEST ESSEX LOCALITY

Date and Time                    20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 2.40pm – 4.40pm

Location                            Lecture Theatre, Birchwood House, St Margaret's Hospital, Epping  
 CM16 6TN

Organiser                            Julie Harkus

**Attendees:** John Carr – Chairman, Ken Hearn – Vice Chairman, Gillian Ramshaw, Heather Paget, David Paget, Margaret Fitch, Peter Fitch, Grant Edwards, Peggy Flanagan, Conrad Gorinsky  
 Dale Atkins and June Bevan - NHS West Essex  
 John Mackinnon – Senior Operations Manager, Adults Health & Community Wellbeing ECC  
 Ray Braybrook - Age Concern  
 Nick Irwin - Healthcare Commission  
 Giles Wright - St Clare Hospice  
 David Bamber - Governor NEPFT

**Apologies:** Leigh Fleming NHS West Essex, Sheila Jackman, Ann Nutt, Sheila Bass

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/ when
1	Welcome & Introductions & Apologies	John Carr welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round robin of introductions took place.	
2	John Mackinnon - Self Directed Support	<p>John Mackinnon explained that Self Directed Support (SDS) tries to maximise patient income and includes, amongst other things, home care and support from neighbours. Equipment services like Telecare comes under this banner. There are 155 staff supported by the centre at ECC with a base in Epping.</p> <p>John distributed handout copies of his presentation and headings covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personalisation – Local people will be offered real choice and control, a better quality of life and greater independence, respect and dignity.</li> <li>• Implementing “Putting Essex People First” – reablement, developing markets, Equipment Services, Self Directed Support, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Partnerships, Commissioning, Provider Services, User led organisations</li> </ul>	

- all have their part to play.
- The Operational structure of West Essex Adult Social Care was shown and how it fits into the bigger Essex picture.
- The importance of prevention and reablement were explained.
- Why now – people are living longer, there is increasing demand for care services and growing customer expectations.
- Self Directed Support – puts the service user in control and allows for personal budgets (real money) and support planning.
- Phase one (for new service users) was implemented on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and the target is to have 586 clients on SDS by April 2009. Phase two in spring 2009 sees the transition of existing users.
- The Community Assessment Team - process overview- was explained via a flow chart and John mentioned that people under 65 should approach the Independent Living Fund.
- SDS has not moved into the health market yet but once legislation is passed it will become an element.

Concern was expressed by attendees that existing services will be affected if a chunk of cash is removed. John explained that this change will be phased over 5 years and the feedback so far is that service users are very pleased with SDS. There will always be a duty of care.

Organisations like Crossroads would be put into the preferred supplier market and every effort will be made to keep that relationship. Emergency weekend care is currently being worked on.

SDS will not replace Direct Payments – some people could have both though legislation limits what it can be spent on.

Some service users and carers are not sure what Direct Payments covers – most of the framework is for spending on care – personal or direct.

The pool of people needed to provide this support will be recruited from Essex Coalition of Disabled People, Independent Living Advocacy Essex, neighbours, college students etc.

John mentioned that he would approach the countywide Older People's Forum in order to clarify the lack of understanding that exists.

One participant questioned that there had been no mention of means testing and John replied that there was fair access to care, which was not free like health (though this is funded via taxes). There is currently a waiting list of 4 weeks.

		<p>The formal public consultation on SDS took place 6 months ago and countywide meetings were held with service organisations, general public and adverts were placed in papers. Meetings at Latton Bush, Harlow and Uttlesford Carers were amongst others held in the locality.</p>	
3	<p>Nick Irwin, Healthcare Commission Assessor</p>	<p>Nick gave an explanation of the Core Standards Assessment and mentioned that not all 24 core standards would be applicable to every trust. There are 3 trusts in the West Essex locality that would be inviting comment – NHS West Essex (PCT), Princess Alexandra Hospital and North Essex Partnership Foundation Trust (mental health). As this is the first year that the LINK has been in existence it will need to invite comments from voluntary organisations that the trust(s) have worked with.</p> <p>Trust declarations need to be submitted by midday 1<sup>st</sup> May to the Healthcare Commission, trust declarations are made public by 22<sup>nd</sup> May and in October 2009 the results of the annual health check are published.</p> <p>Dale Atkins, NHS West Essex, is the annual health check contact and has already met with John Carr to discuss this. Two declarations will be made covering the provider and commissioning perspectives. Dale advised the group that he will share the list of voluntary organisations that have had contact with the trust.</p> <p>Heather Paget stressed the importance of feedback so that participants know they are being listened to.</p> <p>Chris Hudson raised the issue of the breast screening service which was commented on 2 years ago by the PPI Forum but the comments had no impact on the assessment. The Forum received an apology for this – the analysts had not picked up the comments. It was re-commented on last year and taken notice of. The issue is still being focussed upon by the LINK and the locality group is making sure the PCT and hospital are aware of this. The group wants closure so that confidence can return to the breast screening service but it is also important for the group's comments to be taken seriously. It was agreed that Nick should receive a copy of the letter being sent to the Healthcare Commission Chairman and the report dated March 2008 written by the PPI Forum.</p> <p>Nick explained that the Healthcare Commission will merge with the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission to become the Care Quality Commission on 1<sup>st</sup> April – it will be a wider body with wider powers. There will be no limit on budget and more staff will probably be needed.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>JH</p>
4	<p>Minutes of previous meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 08</p>	<p>These were agreed as a true record.</p>	

5	Matters arising not contained within agenda	None.	
6	Chairman's report	<p>John explained that having been involved with the West Essex Community Health Council. West Essex Patient &amp; Public Involvement Forum and now the Essex &amp; Southend LINK/ West Essex locality, it seems lots of political pressure has been applied so that patient participation does not settle down to do the work originally intended.</p> <p>With the other 4 localities, the West Essex group is playing its part in achieving patient representation at all levels in health and social services. Contact has been made with PCT and social services and representation gained at county level through scrutiny committees. Further contacts are being made with local voluntary and community groups in the area.</p>	
7	Nomination of Officers post 24 <sup>th</sup> January	John explained that the current officers (Chairman and 2 Vice – Chairmen) were in post until 24 <sup>th</sup> January and asked for nominations from attendees. None were forthcoming so Chris Hudson nominated the existing incumbents in view of the work they had done and the majority vote agreed that John Carr should continue as locality Chairman and that Ken Hearn and Ann Nutt should continue as Vice-Chairmen, It was also agreed that Margaret Fitch would deputise for Ken Hearn as he has other commitments. John asked if anyone was present from the Uttlesford area who would like to stand as the Uttlesford Vice-Chairman and no nominations were received.	
8	Any other business	<p>Comments were received about the invitation letter for the launch event being addressed “Dear Guest” – member or resident was felt more appropriate. Information on the website wasn't complete and it was explained that this was still in development.</p> <p>Some attendees felt that the Enter &amp; View application form was very intimidating and would put a lot of service users off.</p>	
9	Date and time of next meeting	<p>Friday <b>3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009</b> Harlow Civic Centre, 10am – 2pm.</p> <p>This will be the locality launch with Bill Rammell MP as guest speaker.</p>	ALL

