

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK – NORTH EAST ESSEX LOCALITY GROUP MEETING

Date and Time: Thursday 13th August 2009 17.30-19.30pm

Location: Bluebell Resource Centre, Jack Andrew Drive, Highwoods, Colchester, CO4 9YN

Attendees: Keith Biggar (KB), Reg McKenna(RM), Nileema Vaswani (NV), Tony Constable (TC), Betty Constable (BC), Barry Gilheani (BC), Ian Flack (IF), Jim Green (JG), Jo Keys (JK), Clare Walker (CW), Christine Maddock (CM), Hazel Law (HL), Marguerite Crunden(MC), Shaun Moffat (SM), Carolann Jackson (CJ), Shushila Karia (SK), Judith Wright (JW), Dhirajlal Karia (DK), Hannah West (HW)

Apologies: Mike Chapman, Tony Van Rooyen, Dianne Crouch, Denise Cracknell

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/ when
1	Welcome and Introductions	The Chair welcomed the group and everybody introduced themselves. The Chair explained the structure of the meeting had changed from what was specified on the agenda due to time restraints.	
2	Election	The Chair asked the group if anybody wanted to put themselves forward as Vice Chair. It was reiterated that Reg McKenna is already Vice Chair but there is a need for more as he can't dedicate huge amounts of time. Hannah stated the Moshud Ali was interested. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to postpone the election until next meeting as many members were not present. If members are interested in standing as Vice Chair they should send email/post to Hannah.	
3	Funding Allocation	<p>Ian Flack explained that the North East locality had £20,000 allocated to it for the next 18 months, until 31/03/11. It was explained how the money is continuing to grow as there was an under-spend last year, and therefore a surplus to spend this year. If the money is not spent within the specified time frame it will be returned to the Council.</p> <p>Chair asked for suggestions from the floor on projects to spend the money. The following suggestions were put forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a 5 year strategy planning meeting being organised. The group involved can pull out some ideas from that meeting. 2. Consult with the Council to see if we can get a shop front in Colchester where members of the public can drop in and ask questions, pick up information and identify projects. It would only need to be open certain days to allow public access. Suggested that it would need one member of staff and a volunteer to run the shop. <p>There were concerns that a shop front could cost lots of money,</p>	

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		<p>time and after a certain period, numbers visiting could dwindle. However, it was suggested that with the assistance of the Council it could be inexpensive. HW to enquire with the council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Suggestion made to invest some of the money on increasing promotion/publicity. Ian Flack informed the group that publicity money is separate. Shaun Moffat told the group he used to be part of an advertising campaign and is happy to help the PR group. 4. Idea suggested for a mobile caravan to tour round different organisations, venues, places in N.E Essex. Ian Flack informed the group that Julie Harkus, one of the Coordinators was arranging a library tour around the whole of Essex. There is an SOS bus in Colchester which tours the town. HW to investigate linking up. 5. Idea suggested to run a research project investigating health and social care services in the deprived areas of Jaywick and Wickham. 6. Idea to produce bookmarks in conjunction with other localities and Council to distribute to libraries. <p>Ian Flack informed the group that there is nothing to stop a short amount staff time being dedicated to researching the projects.</p> <p>It was agreed to hold a separate meeting just to discuss funding and produce a work plan.</p> <p>Date and time agreed: Wednesday 2nd September, 5.30-7.00 pm It was agreed that the deadline to submit ideas in order for Hannah to do research before the funding meeting would be: Thursday 20th August, 5pm</p>	<p>HW</p> <p>HW</p>
4	Minutes	Minutes were agreed as true record	
5	Matters Arising	There were no matters arising	
6	Report back from meetings of relevance	<p>1. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA):</p> <p>In the previous edition of the JSNA report, Mental Health was not included. In the next report, there will be a chapter on Mental Health</p> <p>2. Mental Health and Substance Misuse Group (MHSM):</p>	

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		<p>Last meeting took place at Rochford Hospital, and included a tour of the hospital. Over 20 people attended. Reg McKenna informed the group that Mental Health forums used to exist in all PCT areas. As a result of changes in the commissioning process, forums are no longer provided by organisations like 'Involving Essex'. At the last meeting it was agreed that MHSM group would try to recreate 8 forums over entire county. There is also a research document being produced by the Mental Health trust. Reg to contact Mike Chapman to find out a what stage the research is at The next meeting will be on Monday 7th September from 13.15 until 15.15pm (lunch served 12.30pm) at the Latton Bush centre in Harlow. If anyone wishes to attend they must let Hannah know by Friday 28th August. If people require lunch, inform Hannah by Monday 24th August, 4pm.</p> <p>Keith Biggar informed the group the contract for representation of Service User's in substance mis-use is also going out for tender. UNITES is the existing organisation which runs this service at the present moment There is a concern that the new contract may not rely on service-user meetings and forums as at present for gathering information across Essex but will be weighted towards surveys and focus groups. UNITES will apply for the tender.</p> <p>There was concern that the allocation of funds for North East was being considered to fund services NOT identify gaps in the services. The group was assured that MH forums were not providing a service but an avenue to identify discussion.</p> <p>The group were told that currently the PCT's funding for services excludes alcohol. People come to services with alcohol problems and are not offered any form of treatment. If people come with both alcohol, and drug problem then they can be dealt with.</p> <p>3. Aspergers Syndrome (AS) Group:</p> <p>This focus group was set up to look at adult diagnosis. In the North East. There are no staff trained working with adults with high functioning Aspergers in North East Essex. So far Carolann has set up a series of informal workshops during June with Care Equation and (a) adults with AS and (b) parents/carers of adults with AS (all of whom were members of her group ASAP -Asperger Syndrome Adults and Parents) where they discussed their unmet needs. Care Equation are now preparing their Report for North Essex NHS Foundation Trust and will be delivering it to them by the end of August. The National Autistic Society have asked Carolann to do a presentation on her work with North East LINKs at their 'Planning Services in Partnership' conference in London. Carolann would like to thank the LINK for their support.</p> <p>HW to circulate invitation to this event</p> <p>4. Hospital Discharge:</p> <p>This group have produced a questionnaire to be circulated to identify gaps in discharge services. Keith Biggar asked if anybody would like a questionnaire. Tony Constable suggested the Patient Liaisons Service (PALS) office would be a good place to put forms. Nileema Vaswani informed the group Linda Tubbs was no longer the</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>All</p> <p>HW</p>

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		<p>coordinator for this group. Varsha Wright was now the new coordinator.</p>	
7	Outreach update	<p>Hannah informed the group that the following outreach had been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stall at the Tendring and Colchester Ethnic Minority Partnership (TACMEP) event in Castle Park. Approx 20 people signed up • Work commencing with Age Concern Colchester. Written article for newsletter, will speak at 2 events to members • Work commencing with Autism Anglia to identify gaps in services and issues to do with adult diagnosis • Advertising to students at the University of Essex by: article in student handbook, which will go out to 8000 students, enhanced listing on website and running a stall at freshers fayre in October. Also meeting with Welfare Officer to discuss methods of working together • Trying to commence work with homeless communities. Meeting with Emmaus taken place. Meeting with Nightshelter has been scheduled. • Other organisations met with include: Youth Enquiry Service (YES) and Cruse Bereavement • Hyperlink has now been set up on Essex County Council's centralised internet portal set up by Helen Whitting who attended last North East locality meeting. <p>HW to circulate Helen's details so other groups who wish to have their contact details added to the website can contact her. HW also to send Helen's presentation to new members who weren't at last meeting.</p> <p>Helen.whitting2@essex.gov.uk 01799 551 262/07748623236</p>	HW
	Enter and View (E & V)	<p>Through Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) there was the opportunity to go in and view health and social care services. With LINK we need to set up a similar project. Judith Wright informed the group that they are looking to recruit 20 people from all over Essex to do E & V. There will be 3 people from each locality and 5 floaters. E & V comes at the end of the project and has 3 main stages. (1) Do research, (2) People trained to do E & V, visit services, then write report, (3) Take outcome to Essex County Council. Unlike PPI, people can dedicate as much time as they can give. People will visit in pairs and will be called 'authorised representatives'.</p> <p>Questions were raised about how the Mental Health trusts will fit into this process. Judith Wright informed the group that the 5 floaters will visit MH trust. Judith to find out more detail about this.</p> <p>Julie Harkus is the Coordinator for this group and can be contacted at Julie.harkus@essexandsouthendlink.org.uk. If anybody has any questions or would like to meet with Julie to discuss E & V please get in touch with her. POVA training will be provided and possibly training about report writing, how do deal with vulnerable adults and issues to do with confidentiality. There were concerns about the</p>	JW

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		<p>cost of training. Judith Wright to investigate this. Travel expenses will be paid and an enhanced CRB check will also be necessary.</p> <p>People will be informed by the 17th September if they have been selected.</p> <p>More info can be found at www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk</p>	JW
	GP appointments	<p>Reg McKenna asked CEMVO to do work on what systems were in place and to see if GP appointments satisfied patients. However, WHICH have just done a big report on exactly this issue. Reg to give website address to Hannah.</p> <p>Carolann informed group there is a HIMP card that can be presented to GPs which allows someone with a disability to jump queue in surgeries</p> <p>Suggested that LINK should take this to the PCT and try and get this introduced in all surgeries. Suggested we should integrate this idea into workplan. Reg encouraged everyone to join groups of patient forums at GP surgeries.</p>	RM
	AOB	<p>Link representatives:</p> <p>It was suggested that it would be a good idea to identify leads on different committees, so people can attend meeting as a formal representative. This would give more structure to the group and allow information to flow better between the LINK and other groups/meetings. Hannah to circulate sheet identifying areas for leads.</p> <p>Social Care:</p> <p>There were enquiries into whether LINK is doing anything with the green paper for social care. The group were told that the policy officer, Wai, has drafted a policy brief which will be circulated for consultation. Wai will coordinate a joint response.</p> <p>There is an issue developing out of the green paper about disability living allowance. There is a proposal to abolish cash payments, given in the form of direct payments. There is fear that the care component might follow.</p> <p>Tony Constable informed the group that the government are intending on getting rid of Attendance Allowance. This will ultimately result in less independence and lower well being for those who receive it. HW to circulate info that Tony provided to all group members</p> <p>Hannah to circulate social care presentation to new members</p>	<p>HW</p> <p>HW</p> <p>HW</p>