

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: NORTH EAST ESSEX LOCALITY GROUP

Date and Time Thursday 18th February 2010, 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Location Lecture Theatre Building (next to the Student's Union)
 University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ

Organiser Gabriela Horecka

Attendees: Gabriela Horecka (minutes), Keith Biggar (Chair), David Olive (NEPFT), Harry Young (MIND Colchester, Involving Essex), Jim Green (Open Road), Barry Gilheany (Essex Coalition of Disabled People), Julia Galaway (Ways to Work), Carolann Jackson (Aspbergers/Autism Anglia), Dawn Bostock (PIIP), Lisa Hiscock (Students Union Welfare Officer)

Apologies: Reg McKenna (Vice Chair, Involving Essex), Shaun Moffat (RNIB, PNF, CAAG, POSCOMM, VDPG), Margaret O'Connor, Tony Constable (OPPG)

	Topic	Discussion	Action who/when
1	Welcome, introductions, declarations of interest	The chair welcomed people and there was a round of introductions. The meeting was informed that Shaun Moffat had decided to resign from LINK.	
2	Minutes of the meeting on 12th October 2009	Quaker House, 6 Church Street, Colchester, CO1 1NF Barry Gilheany said that his apologies had not been included. Otherwise the minutes were agreed as correct.	
3	Minutes of last meeting (10th November 2009)	Dorson House, 14-16 Orwell Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1PP Barry Gilheany said that he had not received notification of the meeting. The meeting accepted the minutes...	
4	Matters arising	None	

5	Autistic Spectrum and Related Conditions Theme Group	<p>Carolann Jackson from the Aspergers group gave a presentation about Autism and Aspergers syndrome. Three PCTs are meeting in March – a diagnostic service is needed. This will be available in September 2010. It had been hoped to set up a cross Essex Autism Spectrum Group – however there had been limited response to this and the group had not been able to set up.</p> <p>Barry Gilheany spoke as someone affected by autism – he said he had been affected by a lack of diagnostic services in adolescence. People with Aspergers syndrome have IQs above 70 (point of information – to access services for people with learning disabilities the benchmark of an IQ of less than 70 is often used). 82% of them are on Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Some people end up in the criminal justice system. People are also affected by dyspraxia or ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), together with other Autism Spectrum conditions these can be pathways to alcohol and drug abuse, mental health issues, eating disorders and suicide.</p> <p>These conditions do NOT fall under mental health or learning disability. People have difficulties dealing with adult life such as finding work. Diagnosis was not available before 1994. Diagnosis is not generally available in Essex but the condition affects 1 in 70 people. Carolann thanked Reg McKenna, Keith Biggar, Mike Chapman and LINK for their assistance.</p> <p>(point of information: http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/services/ad_symptoms.php and http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder/complete-index.shtml)</p>
6	Projects	<p>The coordinator updated members on projects which had previously been proposed. She explained that all local projects proposals needed to be put before the meeting for agreement in principal. Those agreed would be put forward to the LINK county wide meeting to take place on 17th March 2010 to be ratified as official LINK projects. Each project was explained briefly and questions from members were answered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Point of Diagnosis – To detect what information and support is available after people get diagnosed with a condition – this project had originally been led by Shaun Moffat. Members to lead on this project are invited to put themselves forward. Project agreed. b. Jaywick/Pier ward - To identify one key area neglected by the PCT in their 5 year strategy action plan – this had been investigated by a group of LINK members who reported that no further work could usefully be done. Project withdrawn. c. Bowel Cancer – a new member had proposed this project. To promote the uptake of bowel cancer screening for people over 70. Following discussion it was felt that this project should be promoted by the PCT. Project not agreed.

		<p>d. Yellow Card - a new member had proposed this project. This was to promote awareness of the existence of yellow cards which are available via GPs and pharmacies. These are cards where adverse reactions to drugs can be recorded and sent to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). (http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/). Following discussion it was felt that this project should be promoted by the PCT. Project not agreed.</p> <p>Other projects:</p> <p>e. University of Essex – To investigate the lack of sexual health, family planning services and pharmacy at the university.</p> <p>The Student’s Union had set up a system where prescriptions presented at the student’s union are phoned through to a local pharmacy and delivered that afternoon. The coordinator had recently undertaken a survey of students with Lisa Hiscock (Students Union Welfare Officer) to get feedback on this service, and the lack of on site family planning and sexual health services. 150 responses had been received.</p> <p>Members expressed shock and concern at the lack of services. It was suggested that the PCT Patient Commissioning Forum be approached to provide two nurses at a cost of £70,000 per annum. This would enable services such as: sexual health testing, provision of the pill, condoms and morning after pill to be provided for one afternoon every other week during term time (35 weeks) ie for 18 weeks. Project agreed.</p> <p>f. Whisperers – To fund a development worker to work with this group which supports people bereaved by miscarriage and still birth working in the NE Essex area. Project agreed.</p> <p>g. Autism Spectrum Conditions Theme Group Development Worker – to support the work of the autism Spectrum Conditions Theme Group. Project agreed.</p> <p>h. Autism Spectrum Conditions Theme Group Conference – to hold a conference (similar to one due to take place on 9th March 2010) to enable all parties concerned about Autistic Spectrum Conditions to discuss how best to provide services in the light of the recently passed Autism Bill. Project agreed.</p> <p>i. BME Health Development Worker – To identify and bridge gaps in how BME and other isolated communities access information about health & social care services. Project agreed.</p>	
7	<p>North East Area Work Plan Spring 2010</p>	<p>It was explained that all agreed projects would be part of the North East Area Work Plan for Spring 2010.</p>	

8	AOB	None
9	Dates and Times of Future Meetings	Monday 29th March 2010 , 10.00am – 12.00.pm, Harwich and District Community Association , Park Pavilion, Barracks Lane, Dovercourt CO12 3NS
		Tuesday 11th May 2010 , 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Bluebell Resource Centre , Jack Andrews Drive, Highwoods, Colchester CO4 9YN
		Wednesday 23rd June 2010 , 5.00pm – 7.00pm, St Botolphs Church , 2 Priory Street, Colchester, CO1 2PY
		Thursday 5th August 2010 , 5.00pm – 7.00pm, St Botolphs Church , 2 Priory Street, Colchester, CO1 2PY
		Tuesday 14th September 2010 , 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Bluebell Resource Centre , Jack Andrews Drive, Highwoods, Colchester CO4 9YN