

**User Group Meeting Minutes**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

Guests - Yvette Fowles (Direct Payments Finance Officer, Lambeth)  
 Frances Harry (Direct Payments Officer, CWD)  
 Julian Hall (Direct Payments Manager, Lambeth)  
 Richard Farnos (User Involvement Worker, DASL & Age Concern)

Margaret welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Apology from Kerry Smart from Lambeth ACS Commissioning who was not able to attend to look at the report she has written on training for PA's, copies of the report were available for people to take away. Instead Richard Farnos looked at the Disability Strategy Consultation.

**DASL Update**

DASL are getting lots of referrals for DP's from Social Services. Deborah who was the Stroke Network Co-ordinator at DASL has left to work with a pan London disability organisation.

**Developments in Lambeth**

- Frances announced that CYPs will be matching the 3.9% increase in DP rates that adults have received. The increase will be backdated to April 2009.
- The DP rates for adults and children from 1<sup>st</sup> April are therefore -

| DP Rates For Adults and Children from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2009 |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Standard Rate -<br>(Mon - Fri)                                   | £10.21 per hour |
| Enhanced Rate -<br>(Weekends & Bank Holidays)                    | £12.03 per hour |
| Night Rate   | £67.38          |

**PLEASE NOTE - IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU KEEP £2.00 BACK PER HOUR FOR YOUR CONTINGENCY FUND.**

- Parents receiving DP's for their children can now sign a disclaimer form giving permission for the PA to start work whilst a new CRB is carried out.

- Frances is also asking Social Workers to put agency support in place for children whilst the DP's are being setup.
- Yvette reminded people that if they are having problems with monitoring then they can contact DASL or Social Services so that we can support you to get it up to date.
- Julian said that Lambeth are reviewing DP processes so that things are speeded up. They are looking at simplifying the process of making payments to people so that payments can be made a lot quicker. They are also looking at changing some of the paperwork. A participant ask how long this would take - Julian said a couple of months, hopefully by September / October time.
- Julian also said that all DP recipients will at some point be contacted about personal budgets, personal budgets give you a lot more flexibility on how you use the money.
- If you plan to do something different with your DP that is not in your care plan you need to let Social Services know before doing it and they will let you know if there are any problems with it.
- Julian said if you bank some of your hours then you need to let your social worker know what you intend to use them for.

### **Personal Budgets**

- There was lots of discussion around personal budgets and writing support plans. It was agreed by the group that they would like someone to come to a user group meeting to talk about personal budgets in greater detail.

### **DP Queries**

- A participant asked if there was support for DP recipients around employment issues such as employer / employee relations and probation periods etc. Julian said DASL can support with issues like this but the council need to look at setting up a course for DP recipients that looks at things like managing staff, budgeting, planning and contingencies.

### **Richard Farnos - Physical and Sensory Impairments Strategy**

- The strategy is organised through Lambeth 1<sup>st</sup>, Lambeth Council, Lambeth NHS and Lambeth Community Health.
- There are 10 themes in the strategy that look at many different aspects of life
- The draft strategy is available on the council's website.
- The council has produced a questionnaire that can be completed and return so that people can give their views.
- There are also various consultation meetings happening throughout the borough.
- The group looked at one theme in the consultation - transport. The group's views on transport are attached.