

DIRECT PAYMENTS

PEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

2ND NOVEMBER 2016

Present: *Richard Croydon (Lambeth), Alison Creedon (Morley College), PP, C, LT, DV, MM, Richard Mason (Morley College), Joseph Healy (DASL), Seán McGovern (DASL), Lee Delaney (DASL)*

Due to a late issue with the usual meeting area the DPPSG meeting was transferred to the Yellow Room on the Ground Floor of 'We Are 366'.

On opening the meeting Joseph announced the resignation of the two Co-Chairs. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to the outgoing Co-Chairs for all their hard work and commitment.

The meeting welcomed Alison Creedon and Richard Mason from Morley College. Morley currently runs health and social care courses and are interested in linking their students with prospective clients.

Our guest speaker this month was Richard Croydon. Richard is the Continuing Healthcare Lead for NHS Lambeth CCG.

Richard explained that since 1st April 2014 anyone in receipt of NHS Continuing Healthcare funding has the right to request a Personal Health Budget, and since 1st October 2014, anyone in receipt of NHS Continuing

Healthcare funding, has had the right to receive a Personal Health Budget.

A Personal Health Budget is an amount of NHS money provided to the patient to meet their health and wellbeing needs. Personal Health Budgets can be provided in one of three ways, (i) a notional budget, (ii) a third party arrangement, (iii) a Direct Payment. The majority of people who request a Personal Health Budget are likely to wish to receive it in the form of a Direct Payment.

Personal Health Budgets mean that people who are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare will have much more say over how their health and wellbeing needs are met. If patients are already receiving direct payments through social services, they will now be able to continue with these even if they become eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

To date Lambeth has twenty adult and three children on Personal Health Budgets. Rates of pay for PAs and carers on Personal Health Budgets have been brought in line with direct payment's users in the Borough. However, service users with Personal Health Budgets do not pay a contribution towards this element of care and support.

Other parallels with social care and support budgets are that carers for service users can ask for a care assessment; and may be entitled to a budget for respite.

Richard's contribution excited a great deal of questions, as well as personal testimonies relating their experiences of Personal Health

Budgets. There seemed to be a consensus amongst the services users that Lambeth CCG needs to communicate better with service users.

Other issues that were aired were those surrounding improved representation for service users at panel; improved medical training for social workers; more information given to service users as to where they fit in the scheme of things; who do service users contact if situations change?

PS brought up a number of issues concerning his son's support package. Unfortunately, we were unable to answer or advise Peter as the issues he sought answers to lay within the domain of the social workers and care managers.

Joseph reported that the London Living wage had risen again. The rate is now £9.75 per hour. We are waiting to see what position Lambeth will be taking. The CWD's rate is still £10.21, paying carers £8.21 per hour.

Marsha de Cordova called me on 5th November informing me that Lambeth CWD's department was working on raising the rate.