

Minutes of Direct Payments Peer Support Group Meeting held on January 4th 2017

Present: JH, MM, CH, PBB, Monica Edwards, N, ADR, MN, LT HBW, YK, HS, PS, Malvina Edwards-Drayton (Lambeth Council) Joseph Healy (DASL) Louise Holden (DASL) Seán McGovern (DASL) Susan Clayton (TCR Training)

Apologies: SW

Minutes of the December Meeting: The minutes of the December meeting were agreed. It was noted that TCR Training had agreed to attend the January meeting and speak about PA training. Susan Clayton from TCR Training also offered to attend any future meetings and provide assistance with any issues which people had regarding PAs or training. PS offered to be a guest speaker in September on what DP can be used for and innovative support plans.

TCR Training: Susan Clayton gave a presentation on free training for PAs and gave out a number of application forms. She said that all applications had to be in by February 28th and the training needed to be completed by the end of March. Individual training in the employer's own home was also available. There was a lot of interest from those attending the meeting and Susan offered to help with filling in applications etc. It was agreed to take details of TCR and distribute them to other clients who might want their PAs trained up.

Community Development: Louise Holden from DASL who is the Community Development Advice & Support Worker spoke about the work that she is doing with the community in Lambeth. There was a meeting the following night in Streatham Library for disabled people about how to be involved in community issues and how to have a voice in delivering messages to Lambeth Council – Louise urged as many people as possible to attend. She also spoke about the Lambeth Equality Commission which was sitting until March and there was a lot of discussion about the Commission and how to engage with it. There were some criticisms that not many disabled people were involved and that more members of the community should have been involved rather than “the great and the good”. Louise also encouraged people to become members of DASL as that way they would receive regular email updates from her about events and meetings taking place in the community across Lambeth. Several people said that they had attended the DASL AGM where members of the Lambeth Equality Commission had attended and where there had been a lot of discussion about the work of the commission. Several people felt that disabled people needed to be more involved and to get their voices heard. There was also a suggestion that there should be more demonstrations and protests at council meetings and at other public meetings about public services in the borough.

Next Meeting: The next meeting (as agreed at the December meeting) would be on the issue of Advocacy. This was considered important because recent publicity in the press etc

had said that Lambeth would cut the social care budget and this would feed down to care packages for people on DP. People would need to know where to turn to for support and so it was essential that they knew where to turn to for advocacy support. PBB said that she had been in touch with a law firm she knew and that they might be able to send someone.