

Direct Payments Peer Support Group

Meeting Minutes 5th April 2017

Present: Malvina Edwards Drayton (Lambeth Commissioner) Councillor Jackie Meldrum (Cabinet member for Adult Social Services Lambeth) Joseph Healy (DASL) Sean Mc Govern (DASL) Abigail Tripp (DASL Into Sport officer) Louise Holden (DASL Community Outreach Officer) JB, VM, MM, CH, MN, JH, LG, JD, SW, ZH, CW, PP

Apologies: None

Matters arising

Report by Malvina Edwards-Drayton (Commissioner, Lambeth) into Direct Payments will include a recommendation that adult rate is increased. The report will be highlighting savings that will be made by using DP. Service users were having difficulty recruiting due to the pay rates. There was not enough money in the budgets to use agency cover when a PA cannot be recruited. People are having to fight to prevent packages being cut. People were advised to use the Care Act or to explore the Ombudsman route.

Into Sport: Abigail Tripp, DASL

Introduction to project. Every Monday, 4-6pm, Slade Gardens there is a cycling session for disabled people on tricycles and bicycles. Abigail runs a variety of sporting opportunities for disabled people including football and swimming.

Email: intosport@disabilitylambeth.org.uk

Louise Holden, Community Development, DASL

The Lambeth Equality Commission is continuing to meet until June. There had been a large consultation meeting at 336 for people with disabilities and other meetings were being held across the borough.

Jackie Meldrum, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services

Social care is in the news every day. There are huge pressures on it and the Council Tax precept is supposed to address the funding gap. There was an increase in the last budget for social care but the spending gap is still huge. Jackie is trying to make the council and community more aware of social care issues. Jackie believed that it would be good for disabled people to contribute to the Lambeth Equality

Commission looking at disability. Jackie wanted people to get out and about as well as staying in own home – both targets for Direct Payments. Disabled Go are working with Lambeth on accessibility. Disability Awareness Day on 26th April, West Norwood.

Malvina was working on the DP report to make it less bureaucratic. John's case raised. Pippa raised some of social worker's attitudes: budget guarding and having the approach to disabled people that "these people are lucky to get anything".

Carers cannot cope – being treated suspiciously by social workers. Jackie: we have reached "peak carer". Jackie said that carers are saving economy millions. Other carers spoke about being abandoned. No places for those with autism to go after they leave school – need for something on DP. Carers were under huge pressure with risk of suicides.

Lambeth was the 29th most deprived borough. Council funding will be completely dependent on business rates / council tax.

Malvina said that she was very keen to do consultation with DP service users.

Why not use technology to allow people to do their assessment? Why not put IT in place where there are secure systems, etc?

Need to have service users and carers involved in a benchmark group which can report back to the Direct Payments Peer Support Group – will impact on the policy procedure.

Sean complained re lack of disabled people on Equality Commission.

SU: lots of groups but still nobody feeding back into policy. Partnership would be far better and would save money.

DP charter: need input from Lambeth. The London Living Wage was going up from April. Why is it not going up for PAs? Jackie gave a commitment to ensuring that PAs were paid the London Living Wage.

Possibility of a carers' day of action was raised..