

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Thursday 19th May 2022

Zoom meeting & Maple Centre

Minutes

Attending

MS	Mick Scadden	Chair and Independent Member
JC	Jackie Cook	Independent Member
AWB	Andrew William-Barnes	Deaf Blind UK
KB	Karen Berkley	Peterborough City Council
FK	Fiona Kerr	CambsDeaf
GL	Graham Lewis	Healthwatch
MM	Melissa Mills	Healthwatch
PMc	Paul McCloskey	Vice Chair - Independent member
HM	Helena Melbourne	CCC Sensory Impairment Team
TR	Tom Rawlings	Huntingdon Society for the Blind
TW	Tracy Woodhouse	Dish- Clients Service Manager
MO	Michael Okeefe	Senior Benefits Advisor
R	Rochelle	Administration Officer
VS	Vera Shilling	Independent Member
BR	Bernie Reddington	RNIB
MJ	Mike Jenkins	Cambsite

Apologies

RV	Roger Valentine	Peterborough City Council
WW	Warren Wilson	RNIB

AP Andrew Palmer

CDA

SA Safia Akram

Sue Ryder

1. Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions

Introductions were made and GL asked in the meeting if it was okay to record the meeting for the purpose of minutes. GL also explained about refreshments in the room and if the fire alarm goes off, please exit the building.

2. A presentation was shared by Tracy Woodhouse about DISH

Who are we?

- They provide benefits advice, guidance and advocacy for disabled people and their carers. Support is given over the phone, by email and face-to-face. We also support with appeals and tribunals.
- We work across Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire.
- DISH help people of all ages with any disability, and their carers to access benefits.

What we do:

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – Children with disabilities under 16
- Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
- Attendance Allowance (AA) – Over 65's
- Carers Allowance.

- We can visit you in your home to work with you on your claim. We also support you with the tribunal process and can be with you on the day
- Our services are free, independent and impartial. We are a very small team but committed to supporting the people of Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire.
- The Presentation was shared amongst the members after the meeting and Tracy shared the contact information.
- Email: info@dish.org.uk
- Or visit our website: www.dish.org.uk
- Or call us:0330 3553 256

There were several comments after the presentation stating that it was hard to see the presentation for the people joining remotely and people that were in the Maple Centre. Tracy acknowledged that she would take this on board.

Somebody shared they had an hearing impairment and it was handy that Tracy read out the presentation.

The sensory Team shared they have used Dish before and think it is a fantastic service for their service users. They offered to help Dish with Accessibility and this was well received and noted down.

Q1, How are you funded?

A, Funded by a number of Grants and there is a list on our website.

Q2, Are you finding an increase in referrals due to the rise of inflation and cost of living?

A, Yes significant rise, never known it as bad as this. Quite often the cases we get where we check people are getting all the benefits they can, and the majority are.

Somebody shared to not forget about lipreaders as the sound is quite echoey and with you all talking to each other someone might struggle if they are looking at the presentation speaker. It would be helpful if the camera would move to everyone speaking.

GL: We are in a room with a good microphone and equipment that picks up all the sound. But it is quite empty which might be why it echoes? The windows are also open for air but you might have heard deliveries and outside noise? We are all learning as it is only our 3rd Hybrid meeting.

Q3, If you are on PIP can you claim carer's allowance?

A: Not if you are the PIP claimant? And it can affect other benefits.

Q4, Why do you have to keep getting assessed for PIP.

A, There were too many people on indefinite awards, quite often if it is your first time claiming they usually award it for 3 years and then the second time a bit longer but does depend on how much medical information you provide them with to start with.

3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February.

The corrected error of Long covid was done on the master copy apologies.

Action Log

Item 116 has been chased up with Police and had no response again this morning this will remain open.

4. Feedback from Independent Members

- There had been feedback about VOI and how they are no longer holding Stakeholder meetings about the piloting scheme of scooter's in Cambridge. One of the independent members have written a strong letter and raised concerns.
- Someone asked is there a street charter in Cambridge and Peterborough as this would help with some of the issues we are facing and help the local councils. Could we look at getting one set up?

GL said if that is what the Board would like to do yes? Karen can you help with this could this be a combined authority issue?

Karen from CCC advised that it might be worth contacting Justin Beaumont on justin.beaumont@peterbrough.gov.uk who is the City Centre Manager in Peterborough and Charlotte Palmer who is Head of transport at Peterborough Charlotte.palmer@peterbrough.gov.uk. I am not sure about who you could contact at Cambridge.

Action: GL to explore this

Somebody shared it is hard to recognize what is legal and not legal in regard to spotting Escooters.

Somebody shared that they heard on the news that in Cambourne they were trialing robots that were delivering shopping to people on the public paths. Have they thought about anyone with sensory impairments?

Action: GL to investigate

5. Feedback from other meetings and Adult Social Care Forum

- Talked about Digital inclusion/ exclusion and communication around this.
- Having conversations about how important co production is with people and the council and working together.
- Identifying priorities in the different Partnership Boards and how and who will be responsible.

Caroline talked about our four Health and Care Forums and how they are placed locally and are open to the public.

6. Update from Commissioner Karen Berkley.

- Just started a project where they will be Recommissioning the Advocacy contract in 2023 and would like to include co production so if anyone has been an advocate or had an advocate in a situation and wants to get involved, please get in touch with KB.
- Cost of living crisis is having an impact on all the voluntary organisations, and we have to start planning for the colder months.

7. Sensory Services update

Helena – Experiencing an increase with Mental Health needs and anxious about going outside. Also getting a lot of calls about benefits because of the cost of living and people in general in poor spirits hearing about the war in Ukraine, global food shortages and Global warming on the news lately causing high levels of anxiety.

Q1. The chair asked if a friend of his has a bus pass and is visionally impaired but it is not categorised but how does she get a yellow rail card?

A1: Has she been registered? Or is she registerable? Very hard to answer without knowing the facts.

Action: GL To send an email of introduction with Mick and Helena.

CamSight – MJ has and his team have drafted a how to Combat lonely policy. The impact loneliness can have on the NHS increases if people feel lonely. It helps his staff recognise this and have some guided conversations.

If anybody would like to see the combat loneliness policy, then he will share it with us.

MJ shared that people have not been given embossed bank cards which makes it hard for people to tell that they are a bank card.

Action: MJ to share it with Graham.

MJ last meeting with us, Anthony Moore will be replacing him.

Cambs Home Improvement Agency Update

Real emphasis in the updated DFG Guidance from the government about digital tech and assistive tech being included in DFG assessments/works. I'm not sure we get many referrals for those with sensory impairment issues so would be good to make sure this group is aware of DFG's and how they might access them ie: through their OT or social worker (if they have one).

Frances Swann would be very happy to attend a future meeting to provide a presentation and answer any questions if the PB would like.

CHH Update

CHH has now formally merged with the Cambridgeshire Deaf Association to become CDA Hearing Help. This will sustain the existing 17 covid-sensitive Hearing Aid Maintenance center's spread

geographically throughout the county supporting people with NHS hearing aids as near as possible to where they live (given on-going rural transportation issues). All this in addition to the ongoing work traditionally carried out by the parent organisation CDA is too extensive to detail here but the latest information can be accessed routinely via the CDA and (still) the CHH websites.

Hunts Blind

- **Very busy at the moment suffering from loneliness , befriending service is currently on a 2 week waiting time.**
- High Viz Event 8th June at the Huntingdon Library

8, Priorities update and highlights to be taken to ASCF

No update GL stated his apologies

9, Any Other Business

GL: Healthwatch Event Cross Aboard Event 7th July – Championing Access

Date of next meeting

Date: 18th August 2022 (please note that this is a Thursday)
Time: 11am to 1pm
Venue: Zoom