

## Physical Disability Partnership Board

16<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Hybrid meeting (online and in person at Maple Centre, Huntingdon)

### Minutes

#### Present

MA	Marion Atherton	Voiceability
KB	Karen Berkley	Commissioner
SBo	Sharon Boddington	CCS
SB	Sandie Burns	Disability Peterborough
SCu	Sarah Culbert	Physical Disability Team
GL	Graham Lewis	Healthwatch-
RN	Rebecca Nuttall	Little People UK
EJB	Emma Joy-Staines	Steel Bone
LJB	Leigh Joy-Staines	Steel bone
LO	Liz Owen	Ehler-Danlos Syndrome group
TW	Tony Whatling	Independent Member

#### Apologies

BB	Bob Bragger	MS society
SC	Sue Clements	Headway CEO
RH	Russell Henke	Speak Out Leader – High Support Needs Committee
JM	Jason Merrill	Family Voice, Independent Member
JP	Jo Palmer	Physical Disability team.
RV	Roger Valentine	Peterborough Information Network

#### 1.Introductions

GL explained that the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair are still open. He asked if any of the Independent Members would like to Chair today's meeting. Nobody came forward so GL asked if the Partnership Board wanted him to Chair. This was agreed.

GL requested permission to record the meeting for the purpose of the minutes only. This was agreed.

## **2. Minutes and Action Log**

GL apologised for the fact that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May were not available for approval. They are currently being worked on.

## **3. Updates from members**

LO explained that her campaign group, Access in St Neots, has successfully campaigned for a Changing Place toilet to be built in the town centre. LO believes that there is also potential for funding to buy ramps to give to shops.

EJS Told about the Snowball App. Snowball is a new app for disabled people that asks them to review and rate how disability-friendly businesses and services are. You can find out more about the app and download it from their website <https://company.snowball.community>

SB Disability Peterborough is seeking to be Core Participant in the public enquiry into Covid-19. SB also met with the disability minister to improve communications between people with disabilities and the Department of Work and Pensions.

RN Is meeting with the APPG on Hate Crime at Parliament in October.

ESJ Continued problems with disabled parking at the Biomedical Campus in Cambridge (base for Addenbrookes, Rosie Maternity and Royal Papworth, as well as the planned Cancer Research Hospital and Childrens Hospital).

LO Disabled car parking in the multi storey car parks at the Biomedical Campus is now free, although getting the voucher is complicated.

## **4. Advocacy**

Voiceability is an independent service, commissioned by the Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Council. The aim of advocacy is to support people to better understand their rights, support their understanding of their options and processes, to assist in challenging decisions and to help communicate their views and wishes. This helps make sure people are as involved as much as possible in decisions about their health and care, and they are represented when possible.

There are different ways this service supports different people's needs: Phone and email support from helpline staff as well as downloadable information and guides from the website,

Support from trained independent advocates as well as a complimentary service provided by trained volunteers for less complex cases.

KB mentioned that this service is being re-contracted in October 2023 (due to government regulations) and so requests anyone who has used an advocacy service to give their insights.

SB noted that people mix up advice and advocacy.

ESJ How long does it take for referral to support started?

MA Depends on if it is Statutory Advocacy or Non-Statutory. The Statutory Advocacy must be prioritised. If non-statutory it will depend on the issue and case load.

SB What happens if people have been re-assessed for social care and as a result of the reassessment have lost their support package.

MA If people have been assessed in the last 6 months, they will be supported to challenge the outcome.

## **5. Feedback from other meetings**

GL Met with the developers for the new Cambridge South Train Station which will be near the Biomedical Campus. The plan includes accessible toilets, a changing place, two lifts between the bridge and platform.

## **6. Update from PD team**

The teams are currently experiencing staffing pressures and recruiting to fill vacancies.

The teams are experiencing higher than normal levels of referrals.

SB there was a question about issues relating to people signing leases prior to DFG work being carried out. This means that people may not have the facilities they need to live independently when they first move in.

**Action:** GL to invite Frances Swann of Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency to a future meeting.

## **7. Update from Commissioner**

The Carers Strategy is currently being refreshed. There is a survey which the Council's would like as many carers as possible to complete.

## **8. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

For a future meeting. To explore rotating chair, similar to Carers Partnership Board. This will require an amendment to the Terms of Reference.

**Action:** GL to put on the February agenda

## **9. Priorities for the Board – update**

Building Access – it was felt that a Task and Finish should be set up to discuss this in more detail. Invite Mark Taylor (Greater Cambridge Planning) and Vicki Holden (East Cambs Access Group) to present.

**Action:** GL to set up the Task and Finish

## **10. Highlights for the ASCF**

Issue of parking at the Biomedical Campus in Cambridge.

Changing Places in St Neots

Disability Peterborough applied for core participant status at the covid-19 Public Enquiry.

## **11. AOB**

### **Next Meeting**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Zoom

And

Venue to be Confirmed