

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

1st June 2021

Zoom meeting

Minutes

Attending

PMc	Paul McCloskey	Independent member-chaired meeting
MS	Mick Scadden	Independent member
KR	Khadija Raza	Independent member/ Camsight
VS	Vera Shilling	Independent member
JC	Jackie Cooke	Independent member
GL	Graham Lewis	Healthwatch
DD	Debbie Drew	Healthwatch
HM	Helena Melbourne	Sensory Impairment Team
EB	Erika Brown	Hunts Blind
WW	Warren Wilson	RNIB
AP	Andrew Palmer	CDA
MA	Mehmet Ahmet	Combined Authority
SS	Shirley Scotcher	Deaf Blind UK
ND	Naomi Dainty	Deaf Blind UK
AB	Andrew Barnes	Deaf Blind UK
FK	Fiona Kerr	Cambs Hearing Help
GC	Grace Clark	Adult Early Help- Sensory impairment
TM	Tara Mackey	Commissioner -Early intervention
SF	Sue Finch	

Apologies

Lucy Forrest

Chervon Saint-john

1. Welcome, Apologies, and Introductions

Introductions were made and GL told the group that the session was going to be recorded for the purpose of minutes.

2. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes were approved from March.

93. MA in meeting today.

96. The ECLOs are looking at this.

HM has spoken with the ECLOs in this region, and they know (as do the hospitals) that it is law to have accessible appointments/ letters and are flagging this wherever possible.

99. DD thanked WW for alerting us to the possibility of closed captions and since we have worked with our office manager to ensure we can use it.

Other actions have been completed.

3. Feedback from Independent members.

A group of independent members met on-line the week before to discuss what they wanted to raise.

Scams- this had been mentioned as a growing number of scams are around now. It is scam awareness fortnight in June and scam awareness training has been arranged for the partnership board members for 22nd June. There are 2 sessions 11-12 and 1.30 -2.30. Debbie will be circulating details.

VS mentioned that one of the latest scams that is catching people out is the “there is a package waiting for you that needs paying for”.

AP It would be good to have BSL Video clips about most recent scams. It would be good if we could work with a group to get this happening.

AB Trading standards are good at letting organisations know what the new scams are if you sign up to their notification.

ACTION GL to send some information out re telephone preference service.

Bus pass applications- It has been noted how difficult this to apply for online with various proof of identity etc needed to be uploaded. There was some concern that all this information was online and could it be hacked. But more that it is difficult to arrange support sometimes to get these forms done.

EB said that Hunts Blind society would be able to help.

KR said that Camsight could help too.

ACTION DD to let Pauline know of these options for support.

4. Feedback from other meetings

The Adult Social Care Forum (ASCF) met and set some priorities going forward.

- Digital inclusion/ exclusion
- Transition
- Co-Production

Our transport report has been published (following on from our transport meetings last summer). We have had a lot of interest and positive feedback. It is available on both of our websites and there is a regular and Easy Read version.

The New Mayor was interested and said the issues that were raised should be taken into consideration for future planning.

GL and KR were both asked to speak on BBC radio Cambridgeshire following on from the report.

5. Update from Commissioner- Tara Mackey

We commission services that are delivered in local communities or within people's homes supporting increasing or prolonging independence and improving social connections.

As part of the tender process, we are consulting with professionals and service users, for example:

- Engagement with Providers to understand current services across the county and their vision for the future.
- Engagement with voluntary sector organisations and individuals that access services.
- Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic response.
- Liaising with Adult Social Care operational staff.

We want a clear understanding of the services delivering different types of support in local communities and who is accessing and benefitting from these services.

We have a survey running until the 10th of June for people to have their say. This is online but our community connectors have paper copies.

Tara asked the following questions:

As the project develops how can we engage with the Partnership Boards to help develop the vision and future commissioning intentions for Sensory Services?

How can we best reach service users and carers to help refine our thinking, co-produce the vision and ensure services are meeting their needs?

What are your thoughts on Sensory Services and how these meet the needs of individuals? Any key areas we should explore further?

AP asked about the survey being done in sign language.

TM This has been investigated.

A discussion took place. Members pointed out that a lot of work had already been done from organisations towards this tender and this seems to have been disregarded. There was discussion in the past about amalgamating services but the needs from the different sensory impairment are vastly different. It was felt important that discussions took place in various formats so it can be more inclusive. Even a video could be made.

VS said the questions are a little bit open and easy to get mis information. IE question about one stop shops but with no explanation of how it would work and the implications. Could someone complete the surveys on other's behalf (systems in the past have only allowed one entry per computer)

Action TM will check about multiple entries from one computer.

It was asked if the survey was on the council website but Tara was unsure.

It was suggested that once responses from the surveys have been collated maybe a Task and Finish group could be organised for specific areas. Possibly have it organised as an open Healthwatch meeting to get a bigger selection of people to respond.

ACTION GL to discuss with TM around task and finish.

ACTION GL to share Tara's presentation.

6. E scooters Update - Mehmet Ahmet

E scooters and E bikes are up and running in Cambridge (since Oct 20) and now there are E Bikes in Peterborough. This is a 12-month trial. Lots of data is being

collected from VOI around usage but the Combined Authority is keen to focus on incidents, accidents, safety.

There was a lot of anxiety at the beginning around the introduction. The Department of Transport are thinking of extending trials until March 2021 as London want to come on board and need the extra time to trial it.

The new mayor is keen to see E bikes but has some reservations about E scooters.

There is work going on to design suitable hubs for the scooters/bikes so they do not become a hazard to pedestrians.

With lockdown easing and more people are out on the streets there has been an increase in reports of dual riding and pavement riding. There have been a few incidents of dangerous driving.

WW it would be good to see a breakdown of data.

MA We are working with Voi to get this and then we can share.

There is still some confusion with the public about the legal use of scooters. The department of transport are speaking with some of the manufactures and sellers ie Halfords. Also looking at the powers available to stop people using them. What if they became legal how would the current infrastructure cope with this extra flow of movement?

It appears there has been quite a bit of private usage of scooters around Huntingdon and St Neots causing many near misses. One of the schools sent a message out to pupils and parents saying if someone turned up at school on an E scooter it would be confiscated. Maybe public awareness needs to be addressed.

7. Deafblind UK- Shirley Scotcher

We've got lots of new services specifically around carers around mental health. We have also got a veterans, new helpline as well as our education program so it's quite a lot of new stuff going on and what we're trying to do really today is establish, what's the best way for us to be able to communicate that information to your organizations.

How do you want us to present it so that the people you're supporting may be starting to lose their other sense if they're already VI?

We've got some brilliant tech talks going on now and some new training webinars. Our marketing manager is going to be pulling some information together that would be of benefit to all the organizations.

We have sold our big building in Peterborough and now have a small base in Paston.

GL I can share it to all the board members so there will be some members that were not here today as well so if you've got something physically you want to ask people.

SS. We're all in it together we're all trying to support the same people we're all trying to make sure that the same people have as much help and can benefit from the services that we have and being a national organization, we can sometimes access a bit more funding.

Our wellness programme has been doing really well as well as our work with carers who quite often feel isolated themselves.

We are also doing more work within schools, and we are happy to attend meetings or for people to join in our webinars.

ACTION SS to share promotional information with GL and for GL to circulate.

MS I visited the premises a few years ago and they told me they could not help me as I did not have a dual loss.

SS This should not have been the case we do see people with a single loss. It also does not need to be a severe loss.

Please contact us if you feel we can help either an individual or organisation. Andrew will now be attending the sensory board on a regular basis.

AOB

MS has had a problem with taxis. Having been told a couple of times that they did not want to take a dog. When asked why one driver said they had allergy, so MS asked for proof which they did not have. The problem seems to be they now, they want people to sit in the back of the taxi and there is not so much room for the dog in the back. Molly is used to sitting in the footwell at the front.

ACTION GL will mention this to the licensing teams.

Healthwatch AGM is on 21st July. There will be 3 workshops and then the AGM all online. More details to follow.

This is Erica's last sensory board meeting. A big thank you from everyone for her commitment to the board and her invaluable help over the years.