

# Learning Disability Partnership Board



## Minutes from our meeting on 24 April 2024



### Definition

'Minutes' are notes from the meeting that tell you what we talked about, and what we decided to do.



### People who came to the meeting



Frances Sulikosky – Speak Out, Engagement Coordinator



Will Davies - Speak Out, CEO



Cameron Brown - Council, Head of Service 25+ and Specialist Clinical Services



Fiona England – Parent Carer's Council, Representative



Jane Viner – Council, Learning Disability Health Facilitator



Jenny Cain – Council, Commissioning Officer



Jess Harper – Council, Engagement Lead



Sussex Partnership

Karen Kimberly – Sussex Partnership NHS Trust, Clinical Service Manager & Specialist Occupational Therapist



Naomi Cox – Grace Eyre, Operational Services



Richard Stevenson – Council, Social Work Pod Manager 25+



Steve Castellari – Carers Centre, Engagement Lead



Julie Rossiter – Grace Eyre, Director of Income Generation



Vanessa De Guzman – Parent Carers' Council, Participation Workers



Ella Arnardottir – Southdown Housing, Regional Manager



Carla Butler – Council, Employability Service



Michael Robinson - Speak Out, Link Group



Diana Mills – Speak Out, Link Group



Luci Maxwell-Stewart – Speak Out, Link Group



Ian Metherell – Speak Out, Link Group



Rohan Lowe – Speak Out



Jem Hadert - Amaze, Amazing Futures Coordinator



Richard D'Souza – Council, Interim Director of Health & Adult Social Care



## People who could not come to the meeting



Tristram Burden – Councillor Queen’s Park, Chair of Adult Social Care



Sarah Watson – Speak Out, Link Group



Kirsty Pentecost – Grace Eyre, Ambassador



Josh Puglia – Grace Eyre and Accessible Transport Panel, Ambassador



Pagane Gacheva – Grace Eyre, Our Voices Coordinator



Natalie Baldwin – Council, Community Health Trainer



Lou Aish – Council, Commissioning Manager



Sarah Podmore – Council, Health Promotion Specialist



Lorraine Hughes – Council, Specialist Community Disability Team

# How these minutes work



Important information will be in blue, so you can see it easily. These are things like definitions of difficult words, decisions we make, or where you can find further information.



**Actions** will be in red, for the same reason.



## Definition

An **'action'** is a task that somebody at the meeting is supposed to do. We try and achieve these tasks between each meeting.

## Have we done what we said we would do last meeting?



Everything we agreed to do last meeting had been completed or followed up.

# Link Group update for January



The Link Group gave a presentation about what has been happening for some of the Learning Disability community since the last meeting.



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## Council update about the 2024 – 2025 budget



**Richard D'Souza** from the Council gave an update about the Council's budget for the year and how it impacts the learning disability community.



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**Luci** asked whether we have an emergency fund if the Council did go bankrupt. **Richard** said there is a small one, but that is part of the reason they are having to make savings, to stop the Council going bankrupt.



**Naomi** asked how the Council was making the £600,000 savings from Adult Social Care. **Richard** said it was through the 3 ways in the presentation: getting funding from other sources where it can (like the NHS); helping people to become more independent; and making use of the Council's in-house services



**Julie** asked whether everyone currently assessed as requiring social care will continue to receive it. **Cameron** said that there is no plan to stop services that people need and already receiving, but that the usual process of continual assessment and adjustments will carry on.



**Julie** confirmed that the Council would not be reassessing people to try and find savings. **Cameron** said that care for some people might need to change, due to some services being closed, like the Community Support Team, but confirmed that they would not be using reassessments specifically to help find savings for those people in receipt of support from the Community Support team. **Julie** said that was good to hear, as people could get very worried about reassessments.



**Fiona** said that the people she worked with were disappointed to hear about the Community Support Team being closed. **Cameron** said that while the Team had provided a good service in the past, it was more expensive than what the independent sector could provide, so that's why it is changing to the work being contracted out to the independent sector.



**Naomi** said reassessments were useful for people, but that people have had to wait a long time for them because the social work team had been short-staffed. She asked whether this is still the case. **Cameron** said yes, it is, but they have a recruitment plan and are trying to recruit more staff to fix that problem.



**Rohan** asked about supporting young people into work. **Carla** said that the Supported Employment Team did have to find savings from its service and the Youth Employment Service. However they had found other funding for the next year, so they had 1 year before they might have to make some tough decisions about their services.



**Will** said that advocacy workers were disappointed over the Community Support Team closing, and asked whether we should expect more cuts in the future? **Cameron** said that more cuts are likely, unless there are big changes to how councils are funded.



**Cameron** wanted to reassure people that the Council has a legal duty to provide services that meet peoples' assessed needs, so they will continue doing this. It just might be that the way they do this changes to become less expensive and more efficient. He said he understands this change can be difficult for people.



**Vanessa** said that parent carers were really concerned about a respite home for young people with complex needs, Tudor House, potentially being closed.





**Frances** asked the meeting how they would like to address the budget process next year, as this year we only discussed it after the decisions had been made. **Julie** said she is the Community Works representative, and meets with people early about the coming budget. She could share this with the Partnership Board early.



### Action

**Julie** will share her early report on the Council budget as a Community Works representative before the next budget process.



**Luci** said that Grace Eyre had had to change the way they provide care because they had to find savings. **Julie and Naomi** confirmed that this was the reason why they moved to The Reach system, but that the change had gone well. **Luci** said it did still really affect people not to have individual care.



**Fiona** confirmed that the existing people working with the Community Support Team would be redistributed to other care providers, but asked what would happen to new people. **Cameron** said they would continue to assess new people and organise care through the independent sector.



**Frances** asked how the Council costed the additional time it took for other services to navigate and work in systems when expert teams like the Community Support Team were lost. **Jess** said that every cut proposal has to have an impact assessment, but she wasn't sure about that specific question.



# Transitions strategy update



The transitions working group were due to report, but they are still having difficulties meeting. **Peter Mustow** is managing the Transitions strategy work, so he provided us with an update. **Jess and Frances** presented.



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14 - 24

**Kevin** asked what age group the strategy was focused on. **Cameron** said 14-24 year olds.



**Ella** asked whether it was being linked to the Housing Strategy. **Will** said that in transitions advocacy at Speak Out, the main issue for young people was housing and being able to move out.



## Action

**Jess** will check with Lorraine that the strategy is being linked to the Housing Strategy.



**Jenny** asked about older peoples' needs that have changed that now need to transition into a different level of care / independence, and they would be considered as well.



## Action

**Jess** will pass on Jenny's question / feedback to Lorraine.



**Rohan** asked what number of people this will apply to. **Cameron** couldn't give a number, but said that it included people with mental health issues, autism and disabilities, so would be a large number.

## Update from the Relationships, Friendships and Feeling Safe working group



**Jane and Richard** gave an update about what the Friendships and Feeling Safe working group had been doing recently.



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**Luci** said that it is really hard if you are transgender and have a learning disability, some people were not kind or understanding. **Jane** said that is why they are working with the new gender identity service to make sure the service addresses the extra barriers.



**Kevin** said that he would like to help with the new service.



### **Action**

**Jane** will email Kevin when there are chances to help with the gender identity service.

# Update about contacting the Specialist Community Learning Disability team



**Cameron** said they had listened to the Link Group's feedback that people were finding it difficult to get hold of a social worker and / or the learning disability team.



He confirmed that there is a system in place that catches all calls and contact and follows up anything.



## Waiting List

They have realised that they can communicate with people better when they are waiting for help from a social worker but still have not been allocated one. The Council does not have enough resources to allocate every person an individual social worker, so they allocate them to people case by case.



They are now working to improve the way they communicate with people waiting on the waitlist so they know what is happening to their case and what to expect.



**Rohan** asked that this communication be in easy read. **Cameron** said that they will be communicating with people however works best for them, which may include easy read.



## Action

**Cameron or Richard** to confirm when this work has been finished and explain the final system.

# Other notices or comments?



**Frances** said that some people felt the current venue for the meetings, the Friends Meeting House, was cramped and hard for people to see and hear presentations. The meeting agreed that it would be good to investigate other options, as well as the timing of the meetings (currently 9.30 -12).



## Action

**Frances** to investigate other options and share with membership.



**Jenny** reminded the meeting about the easy read information hub they have developed, and to send through any easy read information that would be appropriate to share.



**Jenny** said Council staff can go to Katie Evans if they have something.



## Action

**Partnership Board members** to send through any useful easy read information to Jenny.



**Steve Castellari** said that it is Carer's week from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of June. On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> the Carer's Centre is holding a celebration day / market at the Open Market.



## Action

**Steve Castellari** to send out a flyer for the Open Market event on Wednesday 12 June.



**Grace Eyre** reminded people that the Artists Open Houses event was running in May, and that they were hosting an open house at Montefiore Road.



**Jenny** said that they are trying to make sure the Council's easy read information hub will come up when people with learning disabilities use google. Speak Out members had given some good examples of words they might use, but **Frances** said most people said they would get their family or carers to search for information, so she suggested that The Carer's Centre and the Parent and Carers Council ask some of their members as well.



### Action

**Partnership Board members** to tell Jenny of any words they would use to google for Council information. **Jenny** to follow up with The Carer's Centre and the Parent and Carer's Council about what they might use too.

## Find out more



If you want to find out more about the Learning Disability Partnership Board or Speak Out, please contact:



**01273 421 921**



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