

CARERS STRATEGY REFERENCE GROUP

12th November 2009: 2pm – 3.30pm

Terrace Room, York House

Present:	<p>Cllr Anna Davies, Chair Kelly George - LBRuT Service Development Ally Smith – LBRuT Carers Information Officer Kim Wilson – RBMind Mark Gilbert – Three Wings Trust Mark Tuohy – Chief Executive, Richmond Carers Eleanor Willett – CEO, Richmond Crossroads Caring for Carers Caroline Ashley - Community Involvement Coordinator, RCVS Sue Fox - Richmond Mental Health Services Susie Rowan – LD Support Worker, Richmond Carers Centre Ian Curry – JobCentre Plus</p>
Apologies:	<p>Grahame Freeland-Bright - Head of Service Development Linda Joyce - Young Carers Schools Liaison Worker Velia Hartland – Children Services Sonya McDowall – LBRuT Service Development Manager Caroline O’Neill – Public and Patient Liaison Manager, RTPCT Geraldine Herage - Head of Services for Children with Disabilities & Learning Difficulties, Education & Children's Services Michelle Williams – Team Manager, Children’s LBRuT</p>
Minutes:	Kelly George - LBRuT Service Development; Ally Smith – LBRuT CIO

Agenda		
1. Welcome and apologies	4. Ian Curry – Care Partnership Manager, JobCentre Plus	7. MH Carers Development Group
2. Acceptance of minutes of last meeting	5. Priorities for Voluntary Sector Funding Round 3	8. Carers Survey
3. Carers Information Officer	6. Update on PCT Money on short breaks	9. Carers Strategy – Group input to development
		10. AOB
2. Acceptance of minutes of last meeting		ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the title of the minutes – they are with the date of the previous meeting 		AS
3. Carers Information Officer		
KG introduced Ally Smith – the new Carers Information Officer		
4. Ian Curry – Care Partnership Manager, JobCentre Plus		
<p>The Carers in the Heart of 21st Century Strategy outlines a job for JobCentre Plus – to provide support and advice to carers who wish to work.</p> <p>7th of December '09 will launch a massive programme in all JobCentre Plus offices with regards to the above. Specially trained people will work with carers. There will be approved training and appropriate job programmes. JobCentre Plus will also provide financial advice for replacement care, so that</p>		<p>Ian Curry to send through further information when it is available and group to work together to assist in promotion.</p>

<p>carers can attend training / interviews. The carers don't have to fulfil the condition to be jobseekers – they can just come in and talk to staff.</p> <p>EW - Issue raised of recognising genuine carers.</p> <p>JobCentre Plus are not planning a big marketing campaign.</p> <p>Reference Group are ready to help, but need more information in order to promote this initiative.</p>	
<p>5. Priorities for Voluntary Sector Funding Round 3</p>	
<p>Priorities are now set. Everything will be on the website in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>It is useful to look at the Children's advice on the web.</p> <p>Proposed to ask Melissa to come to the next meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>6. Update on PCT Money on short breaks</p>	
<p>We have the LD money and a process would be drafted in mid-December, so by the end of December people should have money for short breaks. It is a small pot of money, so the eligibility criteria excludes carers for people with significant needs who don't have health problems. Budget is £24000 for Learning Disabilities, £25000 for Mental Health and £35000 for Older People and Physical Disabilities.</p> <p>KW commented that it was a short time frame to spend the money for MH between end of December and end of March.</p> <p>If money is available 2010-11 then should focus on hidden carers</p>	<p>KG / KW / SF</p>
<p>7. MH Carers Development Group</p>	
<p>KW updated on this. They are moving ahead with the Mental Health Development Group - the aim is to pull together information / initiatives across all groups so that a local action plan is completed.</p>	<p>KW</p>
<p>8. Carers Survey</p>	
<p>Carers Survey is part of the National Survey which allow benchmarking for the first time. We have plans to do it through Survey Monkey as well as mail out.</p>	<p>KG / AS</p>
<p>The local survey completed through all organisations will not take place until 1st quarter of next financial year so carers are not inundated</p>	<p>AS</p>
<p>9. Carers Strategy – Group input to development</p>	
<p>KG had input from all. KG would like a general overview on how organisations feel we have done against what was laid out in the strategy (positive and negative) – a paragraph (or more) from each.</p>	<p>AS</p>
<p>KG will look for the resulting document to go to Cabinet March 2010</p>	<p>KG/AS</p>
<p>10. AOB</p>	
<p>Mark Gilbert – Aiming High: Bid closed on 11th November. Decision to be made at Christmas time aiming for service delivery in January. The funding should introduce at least £170k for this financial year and £560k for 2010-11.</p>	

Caroline Ashley – on 8th of December there will be a User and Carer's Group.

CA

Unsure as to the impact the new Richmond & Hounslow Provider alliance will have on carers

KG – Carers Training has restarted. There was a good turn out (maximum people attended). There are 5-10 minutes slots if anyone would like to go and talk about what they do. EW agreed to attend

KG/EW

Date of Next Meeting

7th January 2010: 2 – 3.30pm Terrace Room, York House