

**Minutes of the Children with Disabilities and Learning Difficulties
Partnership meeting 17 April 2012**

1. Apologies and Introductions

Attendees: Councillor Percival (Chairman), Councillor Chappell, Councillor Eady, Paul Leonard - PL (Strathmore School), Becky Powell - BP (LBRuT), Keith Tysoe - KeT (LBRuT), Judy Weleminsky - JW (Three Wings Trust), Michelle Williams - MW (LBRuT), Barry Woodward - BW (RPCAG), Kieran Travers - KiT (LBRuT)

Parent Observers: Mireille Khair, Joanne Kemp, Cate Ison

Apologies: Jan Tellick (Three Wings Trust), Stewart Jones (London Borough of Richmond upon Thames - LBRuT), Anne Breaks (Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust), Anne-Marie Asgari (Me Too and Co), John Doherty (Richmond Parents and Carers Action Group - RPCAG), Ivan Pryce (Strathmore School)

Councillor Percival thanked everyone for coming.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th January 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign them.

Matters Arising

Green Paper Update – Michelle Williams (MW) informed the group that the 20 pathfinder local authorities piloting the different aspects of the Green Paper had been selected. The London pathfinders were Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham. The main areas LBRuT would be seeking feedback on were:

- Personalised Budgets (at present LBRuT only had these for adult services)
- Joint Care Plans (including education, social care and health)

The Department for Education (DfE) had allocated money to various organisations to support the 20 pathfinder local authorities.

DfE representative, Kate Sturdy, had been unable to attend the last Strategic Managers meeting to feedback about pilots. Pilots were running behind schedule due to having to wait for legislative changes to be made in order for them to begin. Therefore there was limited information about the work of the pilots to share with the Forum.

It was anticipated that the Green Paper would become a White Paper. LBRuT therefore needed to begin preparations as changes may be required as soon as 2014. It was noted that personalised budgets in particular would require significant preparations. It was discussed that if significant changes were to occur due to a White Paper that an open evening and consultation event would be held for parents of children and young people with disabilities and

learning difficulties.

It was RESOLVED:

1. That the Green Paper be added to the Agenda as a future standing item.

3. Aiming High

Becky Powell (BP) presented to the group information about short breaks and additional needs for children and young people with disabilities and learning difficulties in LBRuT. The information, which had previously been presented to parents of children and young people with disabilities, included:

- The Short Breaks Duty
- Short Breaks Commissioning 2012-2014
- The Short Breaks Statement

Following a presentation of the key information the Forum heard that the level of funding had been maintained following *Aiming High for Disabled Children*. A wide selection of short breaks had been commissioned and only two organisations that had previously received funding from LBRuT had no longer been allocated funding.

BP advised the forum that any comments or complaints about commissioned services should be addressed firstly to the service itself and then to BP through social care staff.

NHS Carer's money is not yet committed and this could be used to fund some projects for carers that had not been commissioned through short breaks funding.

BP had consulted parents of disabled children and young people on what should be included within the short breaks statement and urged parents to continue to feed in their comments. The document presented at the meeting is at this address

[Aiming High Short Breaks in Richmond upon Thames - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.](#)

It was RESOLVED:

1. The content of the presentation be NOTED.

4. Update from Richmond Parents and Carers Action Group (RPCAG)

Barry Woodward (BW) updated the forum on the work of RPCAG. The forum heard that:

RPCAG had spent and accounted for all funding in 2011-2012 and had placed a Parent Participation Grant application for the following year. BW hoped that successful events such as the transition event on 8 March could be held again. BW thanked Councillor Percival for her endorsement which was used

to support the grant application.

The parents thanked RPCAG for organising a number of events where Officers had attended RPCAG meetings.

A transport working group had been looking at good practice in transport for young people with disabilities and learning difficulties.

It was RESOLVED:

1. Councillor Percival gave her approval for the endorsement she had written to be placed on the RPCAG website.
2. That the transport working group report be brought to the next CWDLD meeting by BW if completed.

5. Any other Business

The transition Action Plan had now been completed.

Judy Weleminski (JW) informed the group that funding had been secured so that the family support service can continue.

£5000 had been allocated from adult services for software to assist people with learning difficulties to communicate online. The *People and Places* website had been created as a closed social networking website. Individuals needed to gain administrative approval before being able to become a user. Almost 50 people had signed up to the website; approximately 15 of these were young people. The website could be used to promote social events and sheltered employment, for example the floral tributes scheme.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) leaflets – Keith Tysoe (KeT) stated that information became out of date quickly. KeT stated that he was cautious to produce new hardcopies of the leaflet before the outcome of the Green Paper was known. If an online version was created, KeT was concerned about how difficult information could sometimes be to locate online.

SEN transport – A discussion took place around personalisation budgets. Some local authorities were thinking creatively and giving money to parents to be escorts. There was concern that the tender process for SEN transport created a barrier to existing escorts to remain in their role.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) was to visit the Windham Croft Centre on 19 April 2012 and would ascertain whether the short break flat was able to be used. Not all staffing had been put in place for the residential flat at the time of the meeting. However, it was hoped that if the CQC found the flat fit for purpose that young people that had experienced overnight stays elsewhere would be able to use the facility.

Strathmore Bungalow – Paul Leonard (PL) urged more people to use and promote the use of the bungalow. Access to the site had changed so that the bungalow could now be accessed without going through the school. Young

people with disabilities had been given the opportunity to use the bungalow as part of a series of activities to promote independence. The cost of using the bungalow had yet to be determined.

Ofsted Inspection – Kieran Travers informed the group that the Ofsted inspection had been completed. An interim report would be published soon. The results of the inspection were positive and the report would be used to formulate an action plan. The interim report was not public but the final report would be.

It was RESOLVED:

1. That the transition action plan be brought to the next meeting by MW.
2. That KeT check if the SEN leaflet information would be put online.
3. That the Clerk invite Brian Castle to attend the next CWDLD meeting to discuss SEN transport.
4. That the final Ofsted report be brought to the next meeting if available by KiT.

6. Date of the Next Meeting

All CWDLD meetings in 2012 would be held at 6.30pm in the Terrace Room, York House, Twickenham on:

- 19 June
- 16 October

Councillor Percival noted the long gap between the subsequent two meetings and welcomed suggestions for an additional meeting in-between should people feel it was needed.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.