

## Minutes of

### **LAMBETH DISABILITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

Held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the Accord Centre, 336 Brixton Road

#### **Present:**

David Strong	Director, DASL (Co-Chair)
Barbara Smith	Interim Head of Strategy & Commissioning – Lambeth Adults & Community Services (Co-Chair)
Liz Clegg	Assistant Director Strategic Commissioning, Lambeth PCT
Richard Croydon	Commissioning Officer - Lambeth PCT
Hannah Gordon	User Involvement Worker – DASL/Age Concern Lambeth (minutes)
Barbara Collis	Director, Lambeth Carers
David Worrall	Planning & Commissioning Manager, Lambeth Supporting People
Sarah Yandell	Health and Social Care Officer, Lambeth Voluntary Action Council
Margaret Farrell	Direct Payments Service Manager, DASL
John Pryor	Service User, Lambeth Mental Health and Disabled Peoples Action Group
Jim Heron	Commissioning Officer, Lambeth ACS
Amanda Goulding	Home Improvement Agency Manager
Anne Potton	Principal Occupational Therapist, Lambeth ACS
Philip Segurola	Interim Head of Specialist Services, Lambeth ACS

#### **Apologies:**

Peter McDonach	Service User
Donna Arthurs	Lambeth Adults and Community Services
Alice Tagoe	Lambeth Adults and Community Services

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

#### **2. Lambeth PCT's 5 Year Commissioning Strategy Plan**

Liz Clegg gave a brief presentation on the pre-consultation draft of this document which the PCT is required to produce to a prescriptive format laid down by NHS London. Liz explained the tight timescales for consultation and the wider health strategy context with the forthcoming report by Professor Sir Ara Darzi on London healthcare and the 'Picture of

Health' project which is looking at the re-design of services, especially acute healthcare, for South East London.

Liz summarised the four broad strategic goals and how they were going to be achieved and went on to outline the three current and the three proposed future commissioning priorities : 'staying healthy'/health prevention, end of life care and mental health.

Liz then invited questions and comments. Points made were :

- What is the PCT's level of investment in its strategy, would there be new money for new priorities and how would the shift in resources to more community-based services be achieved?
- How could the strategy's commitment to personalised budgets in health be translated into new flexibilities to give users more control of their services as part of the move towards self-directed care? At the moment there were restrictions on using direct payments for health services.
- There was no reference to carers in the document
- The importance of other services (eg housing) which contributed to well-being outcomes should be acknowledged
- There should be more recognition of how the voluntary sector could be commissioned to provide more preventative services

Liz commented that the aim was for the strategy to contribute to shared outcomes with the Council but as the PCT was not the lead commissioner for most disability services it would be important to work with Adults and Community Services on the specifics of how to implement the strategy for the Board's client group.

It was noted that the next version of the strategy would be consulted on between November and February alongside the Ara Darzi report so the Board will schedule a further discussion, probably at the January meeting.

### **Action**

**It was agreed that David Strong would write up the Board's comments and send them to the PCT as a formal response by the deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> October.**

### **3. The Disabilities Partnership Board draft Action Plan 2007/08**

The Board's Strategy Group had looked again at this in August and were still concerned that it was not yet a helpful tool by means of which the Board could deliver its strategy. It was felt that there was too much in it

and it did not align with commissioning plans. It also lacked timetables, responsibilities and costs. David Strong expressed concern also about the lack of a clear relationship between the Board and the Disabilities and Older Persons JCEPG [Joint Commissioning Executive and Performance Group] whose role was to translate strategy into commissioning priorities.

Barbara Smith explained other how the Council was drawing together its work under the seven broad commissioning outcomes from the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say". This was being coordinated by Jo Cleary through the new multi-department Healthy Communities and Older People (HCOP) Board and would also be used as a framework by the Lambeth Strategic Partnership for the Local Area Agreement and for work with Health and other partners. It should, therefore, also set the framework for the Board's own Action Plan.

**ACTION: Strategy Sub-group to re-design Action Plan in line with the seven outcomes framework, prioritise the plan and add targets and indicators by which progress could be measured.**

#### **4. Minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007, and matters arising**

##### a) Access to Phoenix House for disabled people

Not resolved. The Board agreed Phoenix House was currently an unsuitable venue for its meetings

**ACTION : George Marshman to facilitate discussion of the access issues of Phoenix House with Pete McDonach and building management.**

##### b) Status of Lambeth PCT Disabilities Equality Scheme

Not resolved. Richard Croydon informed the board that the HR department of Lambeth PCT was responsible for this document. Hannah asked for a letter from the Board to go to this department.

**ACTION: Letter from Board to go to Lambeth PCT about their Disability Equality Scheme**

##### c) Council social care cuts

David Strong updated the Board on developments. The Cabinet met on 30<sup>th</sup> July and decided not to change the eligibility criteria for services for the lifetime of the Labour administration. All the proposals regarding increasing charges in 07/08 and 08/09 had been agreed by Cabinet as had the cuts of £270,000 in voluntary sector funding linked to the original

eligibility proposals even though these had not been agreed. There was now confusion over Cabinet's assertion that this funding would be re-invested in the sector. The Lambeth SOS campaign has requested that the Council's Charging Project Board be re-convened to discuss the implementation of the new charges and the monitoring of the impact but a response had not yet been received.

d) Transport Services

Hannah reported that there had been no progress on setting up a meeting between Patricia Lewis, other staff of the ATU and service users, which she would facilitate, as requested by the June Board, because of lack of response by the ATU management.

**ACTION: Phillip Segurola to discuss with Janice Walkley and attempt to set a meeting up as soon as possible in liaison with Hannah**

John Pryor asked about LaSCoT and whether there was any alternative provision since the individual rides service funded by the Council had been de-commissioned in 07/08. He also asked about Dial a Ride.

e) Lambeth Disability Sport and Physical Activity Partnership

David Strong gave a brief update. This will be a substantive November agenda item. The Partnership aims to increase participation of disabled people through a range of activities. Hannah relayed Pete McDonach's concerns that this should not be dealt with in a 'separatist' way rather than as an attempt to integrate disabled people into mainstream disability sport and leisure. Hannah suggested that this be addressed in November.

**Action: November Agenda Item**

f) New Deal for Carers funding

Barbara Smith reported that the Council was working on proposals for how it would use the additional grant of £221,000 from the Government. The money had not yet been received and it was not clear whether this was one-off funding. Boards would be consulted.

**Action : Discussion of Council proposals to be scheduled for a future Board meeting**

## **5. Reports from the Board's Sub Groups**

### **Direct Payments Network**

This had not met since early in 2007, partly due to the delay in the Council making a decision on the award of the new Direct Payments Support Service contract.

### **ICES [Integration of Community Equipment Services]**

Richard explained that the tender process has been put back to 2008/09. There will be stakeholder workshops in October to look at the specification and it was being considered whether other services could be added into the specification, eg assistive technology; display and demonstration centre

### **Housing**

David Worrall reported that he had provided a briefing on five key issues for George Marshman who was raising these at the HCOP Board. The Council's new Choice-Based Lettings policy had been agreed at Cabinet. The July sub-group meeting had agreed to focus on developing a proposal for a new adaptations team which would be sponsored by Paul Cooper through the Housing Leadership Team to try to get some resources for this project.

Amanda added that the impact of the ALMO [Arms Length Management Organisation] on disabled people needed to be looked at more closely. The Home Improvement Agency has introduced a new security grant.

### **Sensory Services**

Jim reported. The user-led group Lambeth Vision and Braille are putting together a CD about life in Lambeth for someone with a visual impairment. The sub-group currently lacks Health involvement which is being followed up. It is not clear if the Lambeth Low Vision Committee's low vision day to consult on services will be taking place – Jim was checking. Work was also being done on access to domiciliary low vision assessment services.

## **6. User Involvement Service**

David Strong and Hannah explained that the funding from the Council and PCT had been reduced and there were no longer separate user involvement posts for older and disabled people. Instead, Hannah was

now providing a service to both client groups and her post was jointly managed by DASL and Age Concern Lambeth. The specification and work plan were being negotiated with the Council and PCT and would be circulated and presented to both Partnership Boards when ready. Amongst the projects which Hannah was working on was a new idea for a Disability Forum for people with physical and sensory disabilities – a similar Forum in Southwark had been successful.

**Action : User Involvement Specification and Work Plan to be circulated to the Board when finalised**

## **7. Introduction to Self-Directed Care**

Barbara Smith gave a presentation on some of the principles and the national scene (attached). She explained that she was working on the development of a Lambeth strategy for self-directed care, a term which includes direct payments, In Control and Individual Budgets (IBs). National IB pilots suggested that users organising their own care could be more creative and cost-effective but were also bringing up important issues such as how to deal with the variations between client groups in setting the level of resources available to users [the Resource Allocation Scheme]. It was also unclear whether some Health funding might be included along with social care/ Access to Work /Supporting People / Disabled Facilities Grants / Independent Living Fund budgets.

ACS had set up a Self-Directed Care Board in September which was looking at governance arrangements and how to involve stakeholders – two reference groups were proposed. Margaret asked whether the Direct Payments Project Board was still operating or had it been subsumed?

Margaret was concerned that In Control was not intended to be about saving money but seemed to be becoming more focussed on this. She stressed the need for investment to make it work. The IB pilots had also shown the importance of having independent support brokers available to users, not just assuming that people had access to informal networks of family carers and friends and that these would be appropriate or effective if they did exist. How would money locked up in block contracts with agencies be unlocked and made available for IBs?

**Action : Barbara to provide a further report on progress with the Lambeth strategy at next Board.**

## **8. Review of Lambeth Resource Centre**

Philip introduced this item. The Council had started a review of its day service for people aged 18 – 65 with physical and sensory disabilities in

2006 but this had not completed. There was now a commitment to see this through and there would be thorough consultation with stakeholder including service users and potential service users. He hoped the fieldwork would be done before Christmas. He was working on the review with Jim and Alice Tagoe from commissioning and Keith Edmondson, centre manager.

The remit of the review was to look at how to move from a traditional day centre to a 'community hub' which would provide a wider range of services but also link people to work, education, training and leisure opportunities in the community. The review would take account of self-directed care, the intermediate care strategy and the Government's requirement for a centre for independent living (CIL) to be developed by 2010.

It was agreed that the Board should be fully involved in the review and that David, Hannah and Margaret would meet with Philip and colleagues to discuss Board input, user involvement and ideas for the development of services and how the work could be linked into the discussions of a CIL for Lambeth.

**ACTION: David and DASL colleagues to meet with Phillip and team**

**The meeting closed at 13.10.**

**Next Board meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**