



Redcar & Cleveland Carers Partnership Meeting
12.30pm on Monday, 15th March 2010
Coatham Memorial Hall, Redcar

Attendees

Carers

R Sabiston
T Marshall
Marjorie Robinson
Giles Bolitho
Linda Dickinson
Louise Docherty
Alf Robinson
Stuart Saunders

E Whitewood
Ann Milne
Mary Sheehy
Avril Baker
Dorothy Henry
Kath Searle
S R Lewis
Tony Atherley

J Marshall
Shirley Robinson
Pat Rutherford
Marjorie Elliott
Marjorie Hardy
Dennis Smith
Gordon Mogg (Co-chair)
Norma Martino

Others

K McGrother
Nicola Quinn
Maggie Balmer (Co-chair)
Joanna Caton
Chris Pope
Jane Reast
Jo Swinburne

C Wright
Peter Fletcher
J Page
Barb Rankin
Lawrence McAnelly
Jayne Robson
Claire Hopper

Leanne Paterson
David Hamilton
Phillipa Woodhouse
Ian Hutchinson
Bill Gamble
Irene Poynter
Angela Bartley

Apologies

Carers

Catherine McKenzie
Anne Lowe

Tricia Abell

Claire Heath

Others

Mary McDermott
Stuart Myers
David Morris
Ashok Kumar MP
Lynn Johnson

Fiona Chesters
Mary McDermott
Yvonne Bradbury
Louise Tierney
Sue Reeves

Stan Peverley
Marilyn Pattison
Janet Evans
Sue Renvoize

1. Welcome/Apologies – Gordon Mogg

- Gordon welcomed everybody to the meeting. Unfortunately, Lynn Johnson was unable to attend and so Maggie Balmer kindly stood as acting co-chair.
- Kath Oyston, Sign Language Coordinator, was present should assistance be requested.
- Apologies would be included in the minutes. No apologies were received from the floor.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising – Gordon Mogg

- Minutes were made available and viewed for accuracy. No errors were raised.
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust have changed the direction of their publicity so Bill Davis would not be attending the meeting at this time.

3. Update on Redcar & Cleveland Carers Strategy – Maggie Balmer

The Carers Strategy is now at the printing stage. Once copies are received they will be available in local offices, made available to download from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's website and brought to the next Carers Partnership.

Maggie then provided a brief update on the national Carers Experience Survey which asked about the needs of carers and their views of services. Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council sent this out to 1,147 adult service users/carers of adult service users. Completed questionnaires were received from 51% of those contacted which was a very good response, particularly as the questionnaire was quite lengthy. Comments were mixed and very interesting. Thanks were offered to everybody who responded. Government will publish national responses from the survey and feedback will be brought to the next Carers Partnership.

4. Dementia Advisor Service – Claire Hopper

Claire is working for the new Dementia Advisor Service alongside Toni McHale. The service is based at Carers Together and offers support and information to people who are concerned with memory problems or dementia, and their carers.

Two events have been organised to provide more information about the service:

- Coffee Morning – 10.00am to 12.00pm on Tuesday, 23rd March 2010 at Carers Together.
- Launch – 11.30am to 1.30pm on 21st April 2010 at 25k Youth & Community Centre.

More information about the service or either of the events can be obtained by telephoning the service on 01642 488408.

5. Health Self Assessment for Learning Disabilities – David Hamilton

David is Health Facilitation Lead for Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust. A request for feedback from Health Self Assessments was made during 2008s consultation and so David was attending the Carers Partnership to rectify this.

Commonly known as a 'Health Check Up', Health Self Assessments are carried out to gather information which can be used to shape services. A number of consultation events took place in 2009, including one for carers which was hosted by Carers Together. Sessions gave carers, learning disabled service users and professionals the opportunity to offer their valued insight into services, rating them green, amber or red depending upon opinion and setting a number of priorities. An action plan for achieving the priorities will be fed back to the Carers Partnership at a later date.

Suggestions of how to feed back from the Health Check Up in future were taken from the floor and included the Learning Disabled Partnership Board, Disabled Peoples Partnership and Carers Together's and magazine and website.

If anybody would like to become involved with the Health Subgroup they should contact David directly.

David was thanked for the clarity of his presentation.

Q Was speech therapy included in the rating of healthcare?

A Yes, all healthcare services were included. One of the priorities that was picked up from 2008s consultation was the lack of speech therapists and developments have been made in this area as a direct result.

6. Condition Management Programme – *Jayne Robson*

Jayne manages the Condition Management Programme (CMP) across the Tees Valley.

CMP is part of the government's incapacity benefit reform 'Pathways to Work'. It bridges the gap between Jobcentre Plus and the National Health Service for people who are claiming incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance and want to return to work. It is estimated that approximately 72% of people claiming incapacity benefit do not have a severe medical condition and that many could return to work with the right support. The programme aims to provide a broad spectrum of individualised support to these people. A range of interventions such as grief support, life coaching, pain management, etc are available which can help customers to break down the barriers preventing them from returning to work.

Referrals to CMP are voluntary and must be made through a Benefit Advisor at Jobcentre Plus. Customers who choose to access the programme are free to leave at any time without benefits being affected.

A new mobile unit has recently been purchased to promote the programme, and information can also be obtained from any local Jobcentre Plus office.

7. Feedback from Participation – *Gordon Mogg*

- Personalisation Programme Board - Unfortunately Gordon was not able to attend the last meeting and anticipates that he will have difficulty in attending regularly in the future. He will make a request that another representative can be nominated from the Carers Partnership and will feedback to the next meeting.

- LINK – Gordon was recently part of an audit panel for the accident and emergency department at James Cook University Hospital. All of the department's staff were involved throughout audit and Gordon was extremely impressed with the process overall.

8. Any Other Business

- Wheelchair users who have previously been weighed unbecomingly at hospital or on a weighbridge can now benefit from wheelchair accessible scales thanks to a suggestion from the Disabled Peoples Partnership and investment from the Primary Care Trust. The first of four sets will be available to use at Shopmobility in Redcar very soon - telephone 01642 498894 for further details.
- A Regional Transport Conference is to be held on Friday, 21st May 2010 at Sunderland's Stadium of Light. More information can be obtained from Real Opportunities Centre on 01642 774500.
- Carers Together, Real Opportunities Centre and the local authority have been working with people using services as part of the Department of Health's Working Together for Change. This exciting person centred way of finding out what is working and not working in people's lives, as well as their aspirations for the future is the driving force behind social care transformation. More information can be obtained from Real Opportunities Centre on 01642 774500.
- Funding has been obtained for The Main Project and Real Opportunities Centre to develop a pilot Citizen Support Exchange which is a matching service to assist people with the challenge of finding and holding on to their ideal personal assistant.
- Right to Control aims to ensure that disabled people have choice and control over the support that they need in life. Redcar & Cleveland are one of eight trailblazing local authorities chosen to test Right to Control. A tremendous amount of work has taken place to allow this pilot to take place and citizens are to be congratulated for their involvement.

Gordon closed the meeting by thanking Maggie for standing in as co-chair. He then thanked the speakers and everybody who had attended.

The next meeting poses to be very interesting and informative, as it will be a joint conference in conjunction with the Carers Health and Wellbeing project. The meeting/conference will be held during Carers Week with a change of time, day and venue. A number of speakers will be attending and the extra space available in the venue will allow for a variety of information stands. Anybody who would like to bring information along should contact Irene at Carers Together on 01642 491572. Next meeting/conference:

**Friday, 18th June 2010
at Redcar Leisure Centre
Tea/Coffee from 10.30am for an 11.00am start**

