

Communication group minutes

6 February 2007

Who was there?

Senga Menzies, Rhona Neill, Fiona Wallace, Anne Edmonstone, Margaret Hurcombe, Jimmy McIntosh MBE, Neil McCarthy, Denis Rowley and Emmanuelle Le Coz.



Who could not come?



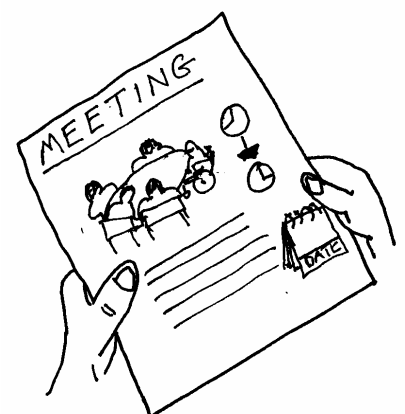
Carol Flack, Michael White, Simon Willoughby-Booth, Rob Kay.

Matters arising



Margaret asked about the newsletter. The distribution seemed to be a problem the last time.

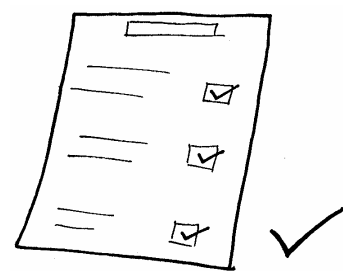
From April there will be a new consultation and we have to learn from the last one, and make sure people get the information on time.



We discussed distributing to day centres, GP surgeries, Ark, EVOC, libraries etc.

It needs to be ready at least 4 weeks before the consultation starts. Jimmy was worried that we would not be ready on time. Denis was saying the consultation will last 3 to 6 months so there should be enough time to inform people.

Denis will contact Rob to ask what still needs to be done on the newsletter. He will also go the carers' group tonight and ask for possible dates for future consultation meetings. The agenda for tonight includes getting a representative for the communication group.



The group agreed it should be a joint event. So that there is no more division between carers and service users like last year.

Partnership Board

Denis thinks there should not be a majority of professionals on it. There were reservations about having a co-chair with learning difficulties, as it might not turn into meaningful participation.



There was agreement that there should be good representation of people with learning difficulties with good support. Jimmy made the point that carers and users would need to agree so they don't get outvoted by professionals on the Board.

The group agreed it should be half professionals and the other half made of people with learning difficulties and carers.

The recommendations from our group

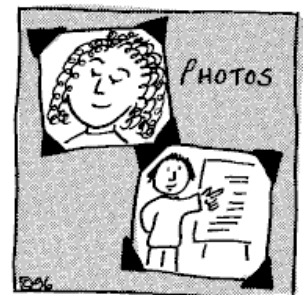
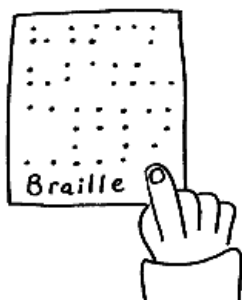


There was discussion about the recommendation for type face "Comic Sans". Margaret said the Scottish Accessible Information Forum recommends using any "Sans Serif" type face. These are clear and easy to read.

Examples of sans serif type faces are: Arial, Tahoma, Universe or Comic Sans.

Anne will send Fiona some information. The group agreed the recommendation should be to use a "Sans Serif" type face, to make it more flexible.

Denis was concerned that the wording in recommendation 2 was too vague. Anne thinks we need to plan carefully before the next consultation to include people with communication difficulties. The group re-phrased the recommendation to make it more specific.



The questions (for the consultation) will be discussed at a later date. There was a suggestion that we could have two sets of questions, one for the big report and one for the easy-read report.



Any Other business

Denis asked for a people First/Communication group rep for the "profound and Multiple Learning disabilities" group.

Fiona put herself forward but neither Emmanuelle or Rhona are available for the first meeting on 21 February. Fiona will ask Neil if he can support her.



The second meeting will be on 7 March, both meetings will be in Bonnyrigg.

Margaret, Denis, Fiona, Jimmy and Neil will meet on 21 February at 4pm to discuss an easy-read version of the draft report.



The next meeting of this group is:

Tuesday 6 march 2006, 3:00pm, People First (Scotland) office 77-79 Easter Road, Edinburgh.

