

Communication group minutes

6 March 2007

Who was there?

Carol Flack, Rob Kay, Rhona Neill, Fiona Wallace, Anne Edmonstone, Maggie MacLeod, David Barraclough, Simon Willoughby-Booth, Jimmy McIntosh MBE, Neil McCarthy, Sandra Kristoffersson, Denis Rowley and Emmanuelle Le Coz.



Who could not come?

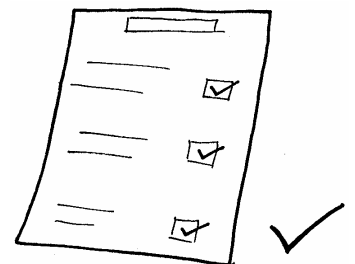


Michael White, Senga Menzies, Margaret Hurcombe.

Fiona asked people to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new members. She also welcomed David (carers rep), Sandra (People First student) and Maggie (from Edg).

Matters arising

Neil read out the last minute. Fiona said that since the last meeting it had been decided that Jimmy would represent this



group on the Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities subgroup. Jimmy will attend their meeting tomorrow, supported by Sandra (People First student).

The report and the consultation

Denis talked about the last Review Board meeting. He said that there were a lot of tensions between Health and the local authorities.



The report was finished in a rush to be presented at the Health Board but in the end it was pulled off the agenda and agreed it should be presented in May (23rd).

It gives everyone more time to finish things off properly.



There are consequences for the consultation. It will now happen in June, July and August. Some people were wondering if it would be a problem because of the summer holidays.

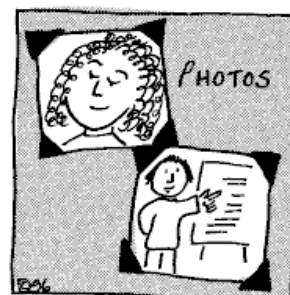


Denis thought we could try and get the easy-read version ready sooner, because there should not be any major changes after it's gone to the Health Board. Denis proposed to cancel the Review Board on the 22nd



of March, and have it nearer the Health Board meeting instead. Denis proposed the 2nd of May.

Denis thought we could have different versions of the report document. For example, the full version for the libraries, an executive summary and an easy-read version.



Fiona read out the recommendations - there was a vote and everyone agreed on them.

Denis pointed out we still need to work on consultation questions.



He recommended that a few people from the communication group meet with Margaret Hurcombe to design the questions.

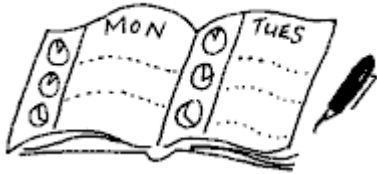
Anne said Joan Fletcher from Learning Disabilities services could help with the questions or be consulted.

Volunteers for this subgroup are: Margaret, Jimmy (supported by Emmanuelle), Anne and Denis.

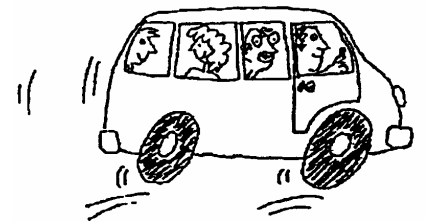
Denis and David discussed the consultation events. The carers had suggested 21 April and 26 May as possible dates. Saturday is best for them. Those days would have themes and have experts from each topic



coming to answers questions from the audience.



Jimmy thought the format was a good idea but he raised concerns about it being a Saturday again. Transport and support can be difficult for people with learning difficulties at the week-end.



Denis thinks we should try and have different forms of events. He would like that we manage to consult 300 people.

Newsletter

Rob circulated a draft of the newsletter. It will show what people said at the vents last year.

It should also advertise the future consultation events. The dates of these events will be discussed again at the carers group.

Jimmy asked that all chosen venues be fully accessible.



Denis think we might need to have 3 types of events:

- Events for carers
- Events for people with learning difficulties
- Joint events



Distribution of newsletter

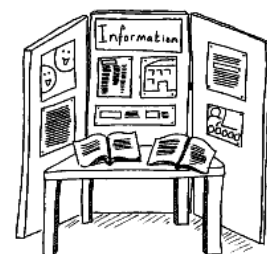
Simon suggested that the Head of communication in the health Board take responsibility for distributing the newsletter to GPs.



Anne thinks it is too removed from the people who use services to be done in a meaningful or efficient way.



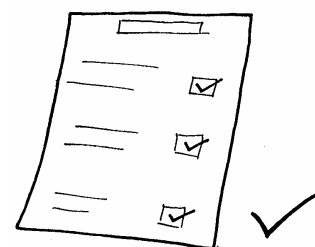
Also, not that many people with learning difficulties will go to their GP in the next few months, so specialist services (such as learning disabilities teams) might be best to reach a large number of people.



If we put a note to accompany the boxes of newsletters, it will help the people who receive them to know what to do with them. It might also ensure that boxes aren't left lying around in corridors.



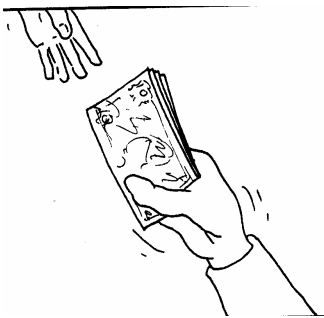
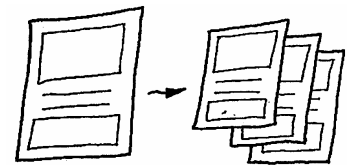
Duncan McIntyre has compiled a list of providers of support in the Lothian. This list can be used to distribute the newsletter.





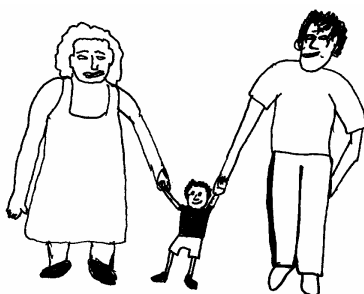
Rob thought it would be best for the newsletters to be delivered centrally (for example in the people First office), and then for some people from the group to physically deliver them themselves.

We will need to know exact numbers for the printer in advance.



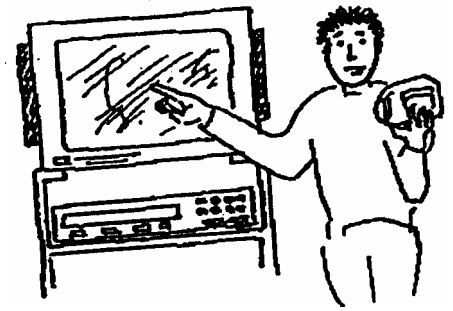
Last time, the printer had to wait 4 or 5 months to be paid. We all agreed this was not acceptable.

Any Other Business



Neil told the group about the parents group. He asked if it was ok for them to put forward some recommendations for the report even though they are not an official sub-group of the review. The group agreed.

Jimmy will pass the video of last year's vents to Denis to be edited. Rob will put it on the website.



The next meeting of this group is:
Tuesday 3 April 2006, 3:00pm, People First
(Scotland) office 77-79 Easter Road,
Edinburgh.

