

Lothian Learning Disability Strategy Review

Working Group 4 – Best Practice

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday April 26th 2006

In the Boardroom, 65 Morningside Drive, Edinburgh

1. Who is here today

Polly Wright (Chair), Denis Rowley (Minutes), Senga Menzies, Neil McCarthy, Duncan McIntyre, Sylvia Crick.

.

2. People who can't be here today

Jane Kellock, Murray Duncanson, Linda Headland, Michael Brown, Rona Laskowski.

3. Changes to the notes of last meeting

Polly said that we had actually decided **not** to ask her to e-mail Michael Brown because we had produced our own form in the meeting itself.

4. Safety and Vulnerability

Safety issues have been regularly discussed in our meetings. We wanted to do something about this subject through the Strategy Review. Lots of groups in Lothian's are doing work on Harassment (including work with youth groups and schools).

Sylvia said that Community Planning is required to think about and deal with these problems for everyone in the community. We need to think about how other groups in the community are affected by problems like harassment.

EDG have been asked by Edinburgh Equality Forum to work with them on reporting and collating information about hate crimes.

Denis said he thought that this issue was not being taken seriously enough. Polly and Duncan both agreed – it had been raised at both of their PiP consultations.

Sylvia volunteered to write a letter to community safety partnerships asking them about what they were doing about community safety for people with learning difficulties. She agreed to copy it to everyone in the group for comment before sending it out.

Polly offered to collate all relevant documents for the next

meeting.

Denis pointed out that there was no Police representative on the Strategy Review Board.

5. Best Practice Form

We had another discussion about the Best Practice Form. We agreed that for us it was really important that service users would nominate the good practice examples. This could be done through People First Lothian.

The form could be circulated more widely as well.

Sylvia reminded us that evidence of good standards is vital too. Polly told us about Nebraska where all the providers have to do Quality of Life indicators and scores as part of their monitoring arrangements.

Sylvia told us that the Care Commission in Scotland have been looking at Quality of Life measures.

Sylvia will ask Jane Gray what has happened about this work.

We know about other similar Quality of Life initiatives, a whole issue of the Journal of Intellectual Disability was devoted to this last year. Polly agreed to bring this to the next meeting of the group.

Denis will try to find out about the Quality Council's work in Ireland.

Polly will find out about Eric Emerson's Quality of Life tool.

Denis will get the form typed up by Phyllis when she is back. Duncan will attempt to draft a covering letter.

6. Events

We provisionally talked about having events in June / July in each Local Authority area. Neil and Denis to do some thinking about the costs and sources of funding of these events. Neil will get a quote for the hire of Easter Road. Video in Pilton could be asked to video the event.

The Equalities Forum could be a source of funds.

Denis will approach the Royal Bank of Scotland regarding sponsorship of the Awards.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 8th June at 65 Morningside Drive from 11 am to 1pm.