

Lothian Learning Disability Strategy Review

Working Group 4 – Best Practice

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday February 8th
2006 at 3pm

In the Boardroom, 65 Morningside Drive, Edinburgh

1. Who is here today

Polly Wright (Chair) , Denis Rowley (Minutes), Murray Duncanson, Linda Headland, Jane Kellock, Senga Menzies, Neil McCarthy.

2. People who can't be here today

Michael Brown, Duncan McIntyre

3. What we said we would do for this meeting.

Contact people who might be able to help us:

Denis has been in contact with Lisa Curtice at the Learning Disability Consortium. She is willing to help us but thinks she will find it difficult to get through to meetings.

Martin Campbell of St Andrews University has suggested

some place we can look on the internet to find evidence that will help improve commissioning.

Denis will try talk to people in :

- the Valuing People Team
- the Kings Fund Centre

about examples of the best services in England.

and to North Lanarkshire and East Renfrewshire about some of the “In Control” developments in Scotland. Lisa Curtice might be able to help with this as well.

Examples of good and bad practice:

Senga and Neil described som examples of god and bad practice that they have heard about from People First members.

Jane and Polly wondered if the bad examples were mainly from the past and also mainly from large group settings.

Murray said that sadly he had come across examples of this kind of bad practice .

This made us think about how we could do things to protect people from abuse. Senga said that we must not give people the idea that we were against people taking any risks in their lives.

Polly talked about a new report that the Scottish Executive had asked to be written. The work was done by an organisation called DEMOS. It is about how individual men and women with learning disabilities can be more in charge of the services they get. It is also about how the money for these services can be controlled by the person – this described as “personalisation ” . Polly will circulate the report to the group.

Linda told us about work that she has done using a tool called Relationship Maps. She will circulate some information about this and we will pass it on to The Person Centred Planning and Individual Funding Working Group.

We thought that we could make a big collection of positive stories. We need to also have hard research that backs up our good stories.

Polly reminded us that we need to look for examples of excellence in the health services as well.

Form for sending to other people and places :

MichaelBrown is still working on this, but we had some discussion about what kind of things we might put in a database of good examples. Linda said that some of the best stories are about services that help support small changes in people's lives. These often take a long time to develop.

We thought we would need to pinpoint what it was that makes a service better than others. Jane thought it was something to do with the way the best services show their commitment to the guiding values that we want everyone to use. We wondered what a "respectful" organisation would look like and how it would be different.

We also talked about:

- Leadership

- Being creative with money
- Getting money unlocked from buildings
- Taking risks and managing them
- People wanting to choose
- People wanting to change their mind
- Support needing to be consistent

We talked about the problem of transforming services. Organisations sometimes change for the worse as they get bigger.

We thought it would be a good idea to run an event with examples of good practice soon.

4. Requests from older peoples working group

Polly will try to search for and circulate some examples of good practice in supporting older people with learning disabilities(eg the GOLD Project)

5. Setting up a library – request from Walter Muir:

Murray agreed to check out the exact position regarding the

Library at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. In the future we may need to have a “virtual library” instead. We agreed that working out how to do that would be a huge task. We decided that we would put it on the agenda of the next meeting.

6. Equality Issues:

Polly reminded us that we must think about this at every one of our meetings.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 29th March from 11.30 – 1.30 at 65 Morningside Drive.