

Learning Disability Carers Reference Group meeting
Friday 22nd November 2019
Carers Leeds, 6-8 The Headrow, Leeds LS1 6PT

Present at the meeting Louise Mills, Leeds City Council Rebecca Cole, Inclusion North Sarah Wheatley, Connect in the North Lynn Bailey, Better Action for Families Maureen Lumb, Family Carer Rosie Robinson Boardman, Leeds City Council Pat Hardwick, Family Carer Suzanne Jackson Bailey, Family Carer Shirley Evison, Carer Maire Sykes, Family Carer Kausar Iqbal, Family Carer	Apologies Liz Davis, Family Carer Ian Brooke Mawson Jackie Hartley, Family Carer Yvonne Ugarte, Family Carer Becky Mitchell, Family Carer
1.	Welcome introductions
	Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.
2.	How to be safe on line - Sarah Wheatley, Connect in the North
	Connect in the North have received funding from the Leeds Library Digital Inclusion programme to run on-line training sessions for people with learning disabilities and staff. The courses will focus on using ipads (3 sessions) and being safe on line (3 sessions). Sarah asked carers for ideas regarding the logistics and topics to cover. Carers shared their ideas including providing advice on making information private and security precautions when working on home equipment. Actions: Lynn agreed to arrange an additional Carers meeting January or March 2020 for the training. Action: All carers to contact Lynn/Louise if interested in the training. There were further discussions around enabling people with learning disabilities to maintain friendships via the internet while staying safe on-line. The group also talked about other IT support and training opportunities available such as • Through the Maze Monday afternoon drop-in (12.30-3pm) • Café Leep • Toast Love Coffee – have funding for digital sessions – not specific to people with learning disabilities but very accessible, • LS14 Trust http://www.ls14trust.org/what-on-at-ls14.html
3	Ribby Hall training – 21st February – 23rd February 2020.

	Rebecca asked Carers what topics would they like covering at Ribby Hall. The suggested topics were; finance/banking, emergency care provision, how the group can make changes, who to target, preparing for an assessment, which authority is providing best quality of service regionally. Carers also talked about how well the Ribby Hall training had benefitted the group and gave particular praise to last year's session leads and topics. Lynn recorded the names of those wishing to attend Ribby Hall as places are limited and need confirming as soon as possible. Carers asked if they could be given advance notice of any paperwork needed for the sessions, for example, the finance support sessions. During the discussion, other issues were raised and noted or are already on the future agenda plan for next year. This included an update regarding Comfort Call, timing and attendance of carers at review meetings. It was noted that Ian Brook Mawson had asked for space on the agenda to provide an update. Rebecca commented that compared to some areas, Leeds is good at providing support and engagement opportunities to people with learning disabilities and their families, for example many areas have stopped running Partnership Boards and their reference groups. Inclusion North are setting up side by side advocacy (peer support). This would be open to the whole of Leeds and not take up any of the membership vouchers. This will be discussed further at Ribby Hall.
4.	Leeds Carers Partnership meeting
	Maureen attended the last meeting and thought it was useful and good to hear about carers provision in Leeds. Louise handed out copies of the last meeting notes and highlighted the update on 'Carers Health Needs Assessment' - a report will be available in April 2020. Maire had previously raised a point at the Partnership Board Health Themed Meeting regarding the lack of carer related questions during the GP health check. There followed a discussion around the varying standard of GP health checks. Action: this item will be added to a future agenda and raised with the Health Task Group.
5.	Carers involvement
	At the next meeting there will be a brief mapping exercise to capture and illustrate all the learning disability and family carer groups that members support and attend.
6.	Meeting notes from 6th September and matters arising
	The meeting notes were agreed.

	Matters arising • Special care dentistry - Dr Bi's presentation received very positive feedback. • Consultation about changes to dental services - Maire reported that she has spoken to Healthwatch about the consultation process. Leeds Scrutiny Board have requested more information about the changes. There followed a brief discussion about the new and improved services at the centres along with the increased access difficulties due to two of the five centres closing.
7.	Updates from Carers
	Carers Leeds leaflet regarding PIP Blue Badge applications – the group discussed the leaflet, application process and eligibility; some people with non-visible disabilities may be eligible. Carers Leeds can help with applications. Action: Shirley offered to contact Carers Leeds about the leaflet. Carers shared their good news stories: • Jackie's daughter Kelly is in Gran Canaria representing Team GB at gymnastics. • Lynn won the Aspire Contribution to the Community Award • Lynn heard from a contact in Belfast who wanted to replicate the Leeds Carers Reference Group arrangements.
8.	Any other business and dates for the diary
	○ 10th December - Partnership Board – Being Social Theme. There will be a variety of activities, some seeking suggestions and responses to the presented scenarios. ○ The Carers Health and Wellbeing session in September received positive feedback. ○ December 4th - Future is Accessible event– Leeds City Museum – leaflet attached ○ BITMO - Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation – Leaflet attached. Each month they have a range of activities, events and courses available for FREE at BITMOs GATE, which is the new resource centre next to Belle Isle TMO's housing office on Belle Isle Road.