Minutes of our July 2016 Meeting

We met at:
Banstead URC, Woodmansterne Lane, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 3EX.

The Meeting was Chaired by Cath White.
What we talked about today

Minutes of our last meeting

Carers Update

Learning Disability England

Surrey Choices Update

Feedback from Community
Events and Future Meetings

Updates from members
Who came to our meeting

Ann Collins  Service User
Anne Shiels  Surrey Choices
Barry Roberts  Service User
Carly  Employability
Cath White  Chair/Royal Association for the Deaf
Dee Peck  St George’s and St Giles Church
Gaynor Gibbins  Family Carer
John Spedding  Mencap
Joyce Smith  ALDAG/Family Carer
Keith Spicer  Service User
Margaret Clements  Surrey County Council
Nicky Woods  Surrey Choices
Penny Davis  Service User
Sarah Linington  Surrey County Council
Sean Jenkins  Surrey Choices

Apologies Received from:

Jane Owens  Healthwatch
Jackie Squire  Consensus
Jen Fookes  Family Carer
Mary Hendrick  Surrey County Council
Marion Price  Family Carer
Paula Carman  Surrey Choices
Stuart Sharkey  Service User
Tom Moore  Surrey County Council
The Minutes from the last meeting on 11 May 2016 were agreed as being correct.

Carers Update

Update from Margaret Clements

Margaret Clements spoke about her role as a Carer Practice Advisor based within the Tandridge Locality Team.

Margaret said that Surrey County Council has 12 locality teams, each with their own Carer Practice Advisor. Joyce Smith asked whether the roles are split, so they have responsibility either for the elderly or those with a learning disability. Margaret said no, they are just split by location.

Margaret said that when she talks about carers, she is referring to someone who is unpaid e.g. a family member.
Margaret said the Carer Practice Advisors work with a range of other colleagues such as Occupational Therapists.

Some people need a lot of care. Carer Practice Advisors work with both adult and young carers. The role also supports the person in need of care, so that their carers are not having to do everything and to relieve some of the pressure.

Carer Practice Advisors try to find hidden carers and work with other organisations such as East Surrey Carers Association and Action for Carers.

Margaret said that within her role she tries to encourage people to register with their GP.

Carers are encouraged to carry a card with them to say they are a carer in case anything happens to them.

In order to promote the support that is available and as part of Carers Week, Margaret recently did some displays within libraries, East Surrey Hospital and the Council offices. Joyce Smith also suggested visiting colleges.

The group was very positive about the role of the Carer Practice Advisor and acknowledge that not all areas have them.
Update from Sarah Linington

Sarah Linington passed on the following information to the group from Jen Fookes, who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

Jen sits on the Learning Disability England (LDE) Steering Committee and attended their launch last month in the House of Lords.

It is hoped that it will be a real voice for people with learning disabilities. LDE self advocates will be attending both the Labour Party and the Conservative Party conferences to make sure people with learning disabilities are seen and heard.

Every two years LDE will be asking their members what is important to them and then the organisation will be campaigning on those issues. You do need to become a member. Details on how to become a member are on their website:

http://learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/index.html

It was agreed to invite Jen to provide a further update at the next meeting and discuss how it could work with the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Action: Sarah Linington
Update from Anne Shiels and Sean Jenkins

Priory Gate

Priory Gate in Redhill is now complete and in use. It is a good multi-purpose space and has an interactive floor.

This are usually about 15 customers who attend each day but there is space for 25. The cost is £60 per day but 1:1 support is extra.

Douglas Brunton Centre

At the moment the kitchen area is being re-designed.

Bletchingley

The Bletchingley Hub is taking a bit longer than expected to get ready, as the steps need to be replaced with stairs.

Noke Drive

Only the Office Project remains at Noke Drive.

The Garden Centre will be re-developed and transformed into a Sensory Garden.
Feedback from Community Events

Update from Sarah Linington

Learning Disability Week 2016

The theme of Learning Disability Week 2016 was Friendships and Relationships.

Community Events

To coincide with Learning Disability Week, we held 2 Community Events:

Thursday 16 June
- Ash Centre
- 50 attendees with a Learning Disability

Wednesday 22 June
- Colebrook
- 40 attendees with a Learning Disability
Feedback from Community Events continued

Update from Sarah Linington

What we did:
Update from Sarah Linington

Feedback from Community Events continued

What we did:

Learnt about: Using Technology and Social Media to keep in touch with friends

Learnt about: Keeping Safe

Friendship Exercise
Update from Sarah Linton

What we asked people:

• When do you see your friends?
• Where do you see your friends?
• How often do you see your friends?
• Would you like the opportunity to see them more?
• What support do you need to see your friends?
• How do you keep in touch?

What we found out:
Feedback from Community Events continued

Update from Sarah Linington

Feedback from Friendship Exercise

People meet their friends at lots of different places:

- Day Centres
- Social Clubs
- Sports Clubs
- Church
- Choir
- Cinema
- Pub
- Work
- Town
- Parties and Events

- How often people get to see their friends varies. Some people said they see their friends every day but others said only every so often.

- Most people said they would like the opportunity to see their friends more.
Feedback from Community Events continued

Update from Sarah Linington

People said that they needed more support to be able to see their friends. For example:

- General support from staff:
  - Help with making arrangements
  - Friendships should be noted on Person Centred Plans
  - Help with talking friends using technology e.g. Skype

- Support with travel:
  - Good reliable transport options
  - Travel training
  - Help with travelling especially at night

People are using technology to help them stay in touch with friends:

- E-mail
- Phone
- Text
- Skype
- Facebook
- FaceTime
- Twitter
- Instagram
- WhatsApp
- Facebook
Feedback from Community Events continued

Update from Sarah Linington

People said:

- Friends make me feel happy
- Friends make me feel proud of them
- Friends make me feel safe and comfortable
- Friends talk and listen to me

With Thanks

Logos of various organizations.
Future Meetings

Update from Sarah Linington

Frequency of Meetings

Sarah Linington explained that further to the discussion at the last meeting, the East Surrey Valuing People Group will no longer be meeting every month but will be meeting every other month instead. This will be the same for all the other Valuing People Groups too.

This is due to the fact that Surrey County Council is now receiving less money from the Government to fund activities such as this.

The group said that they would still like to alternate the meeting venues between Redhill and Banstead.

Sarah agreed to communicate to book the venues for the rest of the year and communicate changes to everyone.

**Action:** Sarah Linington
Joyce Smith said that they have been supporting a young man to work in the kitchen at a golf club. He has been going there for over a year and they have even given him his own knife block. Joyce said that perhaps he could attend a future meeting or Community Event.

Sean Jenkins told us that he has been approved to offer respite care within his own home. For further information, please visit:

http://www.surreychoices.com/shared-lives/
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th September 2016 from 1pm to 3pm.

We are meeting at:
Banstead URC,
Woodmansterne Lane,
Banstead, Surrey,
SM7 3EX

For more information about our group contact:

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