



Notes of Communication & Participation sub-group held on Monday 14th Sept at 3pm at WCA

Present

Jeremy Ambache, Colleen Bowen, Maria, Fitzroy Beckford,
Susan Wheeler-Kiley & Jenny Weinstein

Apologies

Daniel Blagdon Carer Participation & Volunteer Development Officer from
Carers' Centre

Welcome

Jim Cowan lead on user and carer participation for Wandsworth Adult
Services and researcher at LSBU was introduced and welcomed

Minutes

Minutes were agreed

Matters arising

Promotion

Concern was expressed that LINK still not known about and understood in
the Borough.

It was agreed to re-approach Simonne about keeping a log of
organizations who should receive materials. Pieces had been written for
Voicing Views & carers' Newsletters but only Voicing Views published.

LINK newsletter should go out at end of the month. JW & RA had had a
useful meeting with MAC about making the website more current and
easier to navigate. More & shorter news items with links to longer
documents. Clearer signposting.

Membership of the sub group

Unfortunately, progress on attracting new active members to the group
has not occurred. This must be a priority in the next period. JC helpfully
suggested organising a training programme.

Progress on user involvement strategy

Jim Cowan apologised that LINK had not received an acknowledgement or response to their comments on the strategy. He agreed to provide some verbal feedback and to follow this up in writing.

He reported the following initiatives:

- Pt admin to work with Jim and increase his capacity
- New Wandsworth Guide for Supporting People
- Evaluation of START being undertaken with users & carers by users and carers
- User involvement page on Council web site
- Run further training group for user & carer participation
- Establish user & carer reference groups (with LINK representation)
- User-led staff training
- Increase opportunities for user & carer networking
- Establishment of a deaf task group

Jim will keep LINK informed of progress and LINK will recruit user and carer representation for reference groups.

Carers' Strategy

Following 2 consultation meetings held in August where LINK attended, a response was prepared and sent to the co-ordinator at the Council. Concern was expressed about the complexity and ambitiousness of the strategy in relation to whether or not it would be deliverable.

It had come to the notice of some members that a new carers' assessment had been introduced in July. It was unclear as to whether all carers knew about this and also that it was causing a backlog and waiting times in the new process.

Agreed that JA would write to DW.

Partnership with WEN

JA & JW have met with the Director of WEN to discuss partnership & networking with BME groups. JW will be attending 2 relevant meetings in September and will report back on progress.

AOB

Susan reported a request to sit on a cancer care strategy group. Agreed this should be advertised on website.

Request for LINK vols to man stands at carers' conference on 6th Oct and Wellbeing day 21st Oct.

Date of Next Meeting 2.30 Tue 10th November