

Kent Acquired Brain Injury Forum (KABIF)

MINUTES

**Of Meeting Held on 5 March 2004
At the Maidstone Office of asb-law**

In Attendance:

Pam Munro from Headway
Emma Squires, Community Worker, Headway, Hurstwood Park
Mike Hope, Co-ordinator at Raphael's
Andrew Watson, Partner at Thomson Snell & Passmore
Tony Merriman, Head of Claims, asb-law Maidstone Office
Sheila Riches, Solicitor at asb-law Brighton Office

Apologies for Absence:

Frances Pierce, Solicitor at Thomson Snell & Passmore

This meeting was held to discuss the possibility of a Kent Forum, similar to the Sussex Forum already in existence.

1 Local Circumstances and Environment in Terms of Kent

In term of a neuro-surgery a minority of patients go to Hurstwood Park, and the majority go to the London hospitals, King's, St George's, St Thomas's, etc. After they have had their treatment, they are referred out to various centres. The centres that are around are:

1. West Kent – this has 8 beds and is a Rehab Neuro Unit. They have a neuropsychologist there.
2. Buckland & Dover – this is a new Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre. They take people immediately post-neuro-unit. They also take people from Putney who may not be ready to move on into the community or into a less demanding area.
3. Medway – there is a Community Neuro-Rehab with a team already set up. Various therapists there led by a neuropsychologist.
4. West Kent Neuro-Network PCT – this is a new network, which has been set up. They have set up PCT and commissioners. The next meeting is 24 April 2004 and Mike Hope is going to be there and he is going to talk about the Sussex Forum.
5. Hothfield, Ashford – this is a private rehab centre; it's run by a London psychiatrist; it's like a slow stream rehab unit – and they have also got bungalows on site.
6. Raphael's Medical Centre – rehabilitation centre in Sevenoaks.
7. Swanborough House, Brighton.

There are also Case Management Organisations such as Jo Clarke-Wilson's Head First and Mark Holloway, etc. Don Young also operates in Kent as is a private Case Manager. Those present were sure of other case managers in Kent.

There are also the Headway Groups – Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury, Maidstone, Ashford, Dover, Folkestone and Margate. All of these would need to be consulted and involved.

2. Forthcoming Seminar

Thomson Snell & Passmore are holding a seminar and the speaker is going to be Keith Andrews. It will take place on 30 June 2004 at the Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, at 6.30pm. Andrew Watson said that they will be sending out notices of the Seminar and that he intends also to speak about the Forum at the Seminar to give people a feel for what is happening in Kent.

3. Future Meetings

Because Kent is such a huge area, it was decided that the venue for the meetings should rotate. Places such as Tunbridge, Maidstone, etc and the venue for the next meeting would be decided at the end of each meeting. It was proposed that there should be a further planning meeting before the Forum is launched at the end of the year, probably in October. The next meeting is to be held at Thomson Snell & Passmore's offices on Friday 11 June 2004 at 2.30pm. Andrew Watson will forward details. Mike Hope and Pam Munro will attend. Andrew Watson will liaise with them in the meantime to see who else should be invited to attend that meeting. It was also suggested that the University of Kent should be involved and invited, and that there is also Solomon, where they train psychologists. They should be contacted regarding future meetings.

4. Database

Thomson Snell & Passmore have already done a lot of work on a database and it was discussed sharing it, to which there were no objections.

5. Forum Function

It was decided that the Forum should be run along similar lines to the Sussex SABIF. The terms of reference will be discussed at the next planning meeting and also, when the Forum itself is launched, then a discussion can take place about the terms of reference and the structure of the Forum. It is hoped that the structure can be quite flexible. We discussed appointing a chairperson. Pam Munro said that she did not want to take that position and this is something for discussion at forthcoming meetings. It was decided that there should be a chairperson who is well known. Mike Hope suggested someone from Headway. There is no Co-ordinator like Emma Squires in the Kent area and it was discussed who would do the work of the Co-ordinator, such as the Minutes, plan forthcoming meetings, etc. It was decided that all involved would talk to various people, the PCTs, commissioners, etc and try and get them involved in different roles. Mike Hope stated that one of the things about the Sussex Forum was that other people were not involved in the day-to-day management of it, and that if other people were involved, then they may well attend more frequently and be more enthusiastic about it. There is

always the risk that someone will take it on and not carry on with it. In terms of costs and funding, the mail shot and database, etc, Thomson Snell & Passmore said that they will contribute to some of the funding and that perhaps it was something that could be shared with asb-law. The next SABIF meeting is 13 April 2004, 7-9pm, and Andrew Watson said that he would like to attend this. Sheila Riches said she would send him on the details. There is a new Rehabilitation Consultant at Southlands Hospital, who is apparently very good, and we should invite him to the SABIF meeting.

Length of Meeting: 2.5 hours.