

Kent Acquired Brain Injury Forum (KABIF)

MINUTES

**Of Planning Meeting Held on 11 June 2004 at 2.30pm
At the offices of Thomson Snell & Passmore, Lonsdale Gate, Tunbridge Wells**

In Attendance:

Pam Munro from Headway
Andrew Watson, Partner at Thomson Snell & Passmore
Frances Pierce, Solicitor at Thomson Snell & Passmore
Mike Hope, Co-ordinator at Raphael's Medical Centre
Tony Merriman, Solicitor of asb-law of Maidstone

Apologies for Absence:

Sheila Riches, Solicitor at asb-law of Brighton

1. Minutes of Meeting of 5 March 2004

These were approved.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2004

Mike Hope confirmed that he had kindly spoken to Margaret Bentley and Debbie Harding, who had both shown interest in the Kent Brain Injury Forum (KABIF), but who were unfortunately not at the meeting today.

Mike Hope confirmed that he had been officially offered the post of ABI Co-ordinator for East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. He confirmed that there was long-term funding in place for that post. He would not therefore be based in Kent. He was keen to support and do what he could to assist in the formation of KABIF, however.

He confirmed that he had just come from a meeting at the Conquest Hospital where they have formed a brain injury group. The group has defined care pathways within the hospital and within that meeting reference was made to SABIF and its works. Mike Hope confirmed that this demonstrated that, even though people did not always attend the meetings, they feel SABIF supports them, and the website enables them to keep up to date as to what is happening, so its presence is regularly felt.

There was then a discussion with regard to UKABIF itself and its wish to try and encourage and support regional groups. UKABIF's structure was such that it could not have its own regional groupings. KABIF would need to liaise with UKABIF to ensure that the terms of reference and structure of its forum complemented UKABIF's. We could liaise with Annie Gent in this regard.

Mike Hope confirmed that he was aware of the Kent Care Cluster, who had had a conference, which was held near Sittingbourne. He said he felt sure they would be interested in being part of the forum.

There was then a discussion about the SABIF website and how useful this was. It was agreed that KABIF would need to try and set up a similar point of reference.

There was then a discussion as to whether other law firms should be involved in the forum, particularly those perhaps outside the area who may be able to benefit from KABIF – firms such as Gaby Hardwicke in Hastings, Irwin Mitchell, Stewarts, Hugh James in Cardiff, (Andrew Harding), Warren Collins of Alexandra Harris, etc. A lot of the national players will follow what is happening in Kent if the forum is successful.

3. Seminar “The Clinical and Ethical Dilemmas of Severe Brain Injury”.

Thomson Snell & Passmore’s lecture with guest speaker Keith Andrews will take place at the Spa Hotel at 6pm on 30 June. A lot of people have already confirmed that they will attend the lecture. Andrew Watson will confirm at the end of the lecture that a forum hopes to get off the ground, explain to people why it is important and how successful UKABIF and SABIF have been and how Kent could benefit if enough people came forward to volunteer their services to get involved.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 16 July at 2.30pm at the Lonsdale Gate Conference Room of Thomson Snell & Passmore Solicitors in Tunbridge Wells. Those attending the lecture would be told of the meeting and those who were unable to attend the lecture but had shown interest in KABIF would be invited to meet on that day and from those attendees a steering committee would be selected. Terms of reference could be decided upon and the structure of the forum and from there the launch of the forum itself could be planned.

Everyone volunteered to have their name and telephone number posted on the flyer that accompanies the announcement of the meeting so that all interested parties could make contact prior to 16 July and hopefully a good number of people would attend.

A discussion as to numbers took place, which resulted in everyone agreeing that they would encourage as many people as they knew in the field to attend and to assist where they could.

Andrew Watson kindly agreed to chair the next meeting.

4. Frimley Park

Mike Hope and Pam Munro had attended West Kent PCT Neuro Network on 30 April 2004 and enjoyed a presentation from two specialist nurses who worked at Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey. They had been instrumental and enthusiastic about setting up excellent care pathways and were quite proud to be presenting their view on what was important.

- 5.** There was some discussion as to whether the KABIF should include children and also the young elderly i.e. the over 60s. It was decided that we would be guided by who actually expresses an interest in the forum. If KABIF has a website then we shall need to work out the contact details to provide to anyone who wants to make an enquiry. In essence we need to know who would be our Emma. We also need to make contact with a technical whiz who can assist in setting up the website. It was suggested that one of the clients at the Headway Hurstwood Park might be able to assist and that it would also be sensible for us to involve COMPAID in Tunbridge Wells.

6. Next Meeting

It was agreed that this would be at the Thomson Snell & Passmore Conference Room on Friday 16 July at 2.30pm when hopefully people would have come forth to join the steering committee.