

Kent Acquired Brain Injury Forum

Minutes

Wednesday 11th September 2008 at 3.00 pm

Headway Canterbury, The Sustain Centre, Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 3NG

In attendance:

Mrs Tracey Allport	Brain Injury Case Manager / Occupational Therapist	Independent Living Solutions Ltd
Mr Robert Aylott	Solicitor	ASB Aspire LLP
Mr Tanesh Bhugobaun	Registered Manager	Raphael Medical Centre
Mrs Liz Bray	Head of Nursing	The Children's Trust, Tadworth
Ms Claire Carter	Occupational Therapist	Strode Park Foundation
Ms Jan Cartmell	Service Manager	The Regard Partnership
Miss Becca Coffey	PA to Frances Pierce	Rix & Kay Solicitors LLP
Ms Sally Collins	Speech & Language Therapist	Strode Park Foundation
Mr L J Conradie	Consultant Neuropsychologist	Bbarts, a service of Psicon Ltd
Ms Patricia Corbett	Private Occupational Therapist	Patricia Corbett Occupational Therapy Services
Ms Di Drummond	Manager	Headway Centre Tunbridge Wells & District
Mrs Ros Eastwood	Head Teacher	East Kent Health Needs Education Service
Dr Gerhard Florschutz	Director	Raphael Medical Centre
Mrs Sue Goodman	Business Manager	Bbarts, a service of Psicon Ltd
Ms Tanya Hodnett	Centre Manager	Blackheath BIRU
Ms Wendy Irons	Team Manager, Adult Physical Disability Team	Medway Council
Mr Tony Merriman	Solicitor	Rix & Kay Solicitors LLP
Mrs Pam Munro	Founder and Volunteer	Headway Tunbridge Wells and District
Ms Frances Pierce	Partner (KABIF Chairwoman)	Rix & Kay Solicitors
Ms Mary Ryan	Vocational Assessment Manager / Occupational Psychologist	Royal British Legion Industries Vocational Assessment Centre
Mr Dennis Smith	President	Headway Tunbridge Wells and District
Mrs Linda Theoff	Brain Injury Case Manager	East Kent Hospitals Trust
Miss Sue Ware	Independent Speech & Language Therapist	

Apologies:

Mr Bruce Aitken	Principal Physiotherapist	Strode Park Foundation
Mrs Sophia Chung	Executive Director	S C Support & Care Services Ltd
Mr John Cotterill	Director of Care Services	Strode Park Foundation
Ms Jo-Ann Davis	Manager, The Vines	Priory Healthcare
Ms Elizabeth Francis	Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist	Community Brain Injury Team, Medway Maritime Hospital
Mr Tony Hart	Head of Vocational Rehabilitation	Queen Elizabeth's Foundation, Brain Injury Centre
Mrs Jenny Mazur	Parent of son with ABI	
Ms Catherine McDonagh	Consultant Clinical Psychologist	DART Team
Ms Denise McKeown	Partner	McMillan-Williams
Mr Chris Merriman	Website Designer	
Mrs Wendy Morcom	Paralegal	Rix & Kay LLP
Ms Robyn Noonan	Physical and Sensory Impairment (PSI) Programme SE Lead	Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP)
Ms Mandy O'Brien	Brain Injury Case Manager	
Ms Patti Simonson	Head of Social Work	Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability
Mrs Jenny Stockley	Consultant Paediatric Neuropsychologist / Director	Jennifer Stockley Limited
Ms Juliette Stuart	Rise & Reability Manager	Strode Park Foundation
Miss Victoria Toy	Trainee Solicitor	Rix & Kay Solicitors LLP
Mr Richard Tutt	Registered Manager	Everycare Medway/Swale
Miss Katie White	Paralegal	Rix & Kay Solicitors LLP
Ms Katherine Wilkinson-Carr	Unit Coordinator	Kent & Medway NHS Social Care Partnership Trust

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Frances Pierce, welcomed all attending.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on 11th June 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th June 2008 were approved as drafted save for an amendment in section 8 to confirm that Dennis Smith is keen to ensure that the Adult Health Consultation Advisory Group covers neurosciences / neurological conditions and the Primary Care Trust's community therapy service.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 11th June 2008

Frances Pierce confirmed she was keeping an eye on the South East London Head Injury Audit, which was now in its second phase, so that she can feedback to KABIF.

The United Kingdom Acquired Brain Injury Forum (UKABIF) is holding a conference in November and they have kindly offered KABIF a free stand. Jan Cartmell, Pam Munro, Dennis Smith and Frances Pierce will attend the conference and hope to launch KABIF's young people initiative there.

New brain injury forums are being formed – there are now forums in the South West, South Wales, Norfolk, Suffolk as well as a couple in the Midlands.

KABIF is now fully booked for speakers for 2009.

4. Neuro-Rehab Stakeholders Group and NSF Update – Nicky Coffey

Nicky Coffey announced that there had been two new appointments within Kent, which she thought would be of particular interest to KABIF: -

Julie Hodson had been appointed at commissioning level to focus on neurology and neurosciences rehabilitation in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Julie Hodson was previously a specialist neurosciences nurse.

Simon Truett had been appointed by the three PCTs and Social Services to work on a co-ordinated approach to neurosciences across Kent and Medway. She confirmed that Simon Truett has a strong background in neurosciences. It is hoped he will start his post next month.

Nicky Coffey hopes that with these two appointments she and her team will be able to push the brain injury agenda forward. She said she would not have got to this position as quickly without the assistance of KABIF and she thanked KABIF members for that.

Nicky Coffey confirmed she would like to work very closely with KABIF. She values the information that KABIF members have and is open to suggestions and feedback.

Frances Pierce thanked Nicky Coffey on behalf of KABIF for what she had achieved and said that KABIF members will look forward to working with Julie Hodson and Simon Truett and welcoming them to KABIF. Frances invited Julie Hodson and Simon Truett to make contact if they wanted to be involved with KABIF and if there were situations that would benefit from the expertise of KABIF members.

Frances said that at the next KABIF meeting she would appreciate an outline of what Julie and Simon will be doing within their roles.

There will be a neurosciences meeting on 29th September 2008 covering all of the Kent and Medway area. Dennis Smith will be attending this meeting and Di Drummond will attend if she can. Neuro-rehabilitation and brain injury services are towards the top of the list of priorities and these will remain at the top of the list for the next few months into the next financial year.

5. Mapping Exercise/Website Update – Tony Merriman

Frances Pierce mentioned that Chris Merriman has been working hard to keep the KABIF website up to date. She invited everyone to have a look at the website www.kabif.org.uk to see up to date details, including forthcoming events, and to see how well the mapping of the services works. She confirmed that KABIF are very grateful to Chris for his continued work on the website.

Tony Merriman confirmed that he was settling into his new job and will be working over the next two or three months to get even more information into the mapping aspect of the website. He asked that everyone look at the mapping exercise on the website to check the details of their organisations are up to date. If your organisation is not on the mapping then please complete the form on the website (www.kabif.org.uk). There is no charge for having an organisation's details on the site.

Nicky Coffey agreed to let Tony Merriman or Frances Pierce have the contact names and details of those steering the NSF within the primary care trusts.

If anyone has any forthcoming events they would like added to the KABIF website, please let Tony Merriman know (email tonymerriman@rixandkay.co.uk).

6. Headway (Kent) – Di Drummond

Di Drummond said that Headway Tunbridge Wells is settling into their new premises and are looking forward to their future. She said that one issue currently being discussed is young people (eighteen to mid twenties) not wanting to be seen as disabled. Headway are looking into ways to meet their needs.

There is a Headway Members Evening on 7th October at 7.30 pm. Dr Mayer Bodani of the West Kent Neurosciences Unit will be talking about advances in medication. The meeting is open to all.

Di Drummond reported that Headway UK are starting to take a more controversial line to raise the profile of Headway and brain injury and to encourage discussion, raising issues such as boxing and cycle helmets.

Di confirmed that Headway East Kent had secured lottery funding for two years for an outreach worker to look at moving people on from centres and the potential for volunteer work or job placements.

There will be a GP training week held in October in Canterbury, covering a number of subjects. There will be a neurology day on 13th October.

Di Drummond mentioned that she had recently attended the National Voices Conference, which included a promise by the government to listen to what people were saying. Di kindly agreed to forward some information to put on to the KABIF website.

7. Towards Independence – Ros Eastwood & Mary Ryan

Ros confirmed that the project, which started two years ago, regarding young adults (18 – 35 years) and their desire to be independent was now in its final stages. She passed around the draft leaflet and asked that this is not circulated in its draft form. The final leaflet will be printed in colour and will also be available electronically on the KABIF website.

Ros said that the collated information from the survey of young adults and their families and carers showed some interesting results. She would like to post on the KABIF website the collated information from the questionnaire. Consideration may be given in the future to extending the questionnaire.

It had been decided that national phone numbers and 0800 numbers should be put on the leaflet rather than local numbers so that the leaflet would be useful not just to those in Kent.

Ros asked that any comments on the leaflet be emailed to her by 30th September (email reastwood@ekhnhs.kent.nhs.uk). Feedback is also sought by 30th September on where the leaflet should be distributed. It will be more cost effective if people request before the printing is run the number of leaflets they will require, as the more print runs necessary the more expensive it will work out.

The aim is for the leaflet to be printed in time to be launched at the UKABIF conference in November.

LJ Conradie asked whether consideration had been given to a contents page to add structure to the leaflet. Mary and Ros had tried to keep the leaflet to as few pages as possible.

Mary Ryan confirmed that the project had brought up lots more ideas, such as more leaflets that could be produced. Ros Eastwood mentioned that one idea was that people within specialisms could meet up to come up with definitive information for the KABIF website.

When Mary Ryan mentioned that it came across clearly that lots of people with ABI want to seem normal, Frances Pierce agreed that this is often a challenge as a lot of the equipment for brain injury sufferers is made for the elderly.

A current discussion topic is how to make day centres and rehabilitation more user friendly for young people, for example by looking at how systems or equipment that fit into normal every day lives, such as computer games that lots of teenagers enjoy, can help in rehabilitation.

Frances Pierce congratulated Mary Ryan and Ros Eastwood for all their hard work on the project over the past two years. The data collected in producing the leaflet will be put on the agenda for a future KABIF meeting.

8. Health Network – Dennis Smith

Dennis Smith confirmed that following the abolishment in March 2008 of the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum, the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) had been set up.

Dennis Smith explained that West Kent Primary Care Trust had set up a 'Health Network'. The idea behind this is that people from all walks of life are encouraged to sign up as volunteers (there are so far approximately 400 volunteers) who the PCT consult on various issues. Dennis is involved in the Health Network and his specific area is long-term conditions.

Dennis is also part of the West Kent Neurosciences Group, a group with many high powered consultants.

Dennis has also joined The Adult Health Consultation Advisory Group, which has recently started up. There is a consultation group for long-term conditions. It is thought that approximately 20% of the population suffer from long-term conditions (which apart from neurological conditions also include arthritis, heart problems, asthma, amputations, diabetes, etc.).

Dennis is described as an ambassador for the Health Network and confirmed that he also hopes to be an ambassador for KABIF within these organisations that he is part of so as to advance the interests of ABI.

There was then a break for tea and coffee.

9. Speakers

Sue Ware, independent speech & language therapy, kindly gave a talk on speech & language therapy.

Patricia Corbett, occupational therapist, kindly gave a talk on vocational rehabilitation and integration into the community.

10. Any Other Business

a. Encephalitis

Frances Pierce mentioned that the Encephalitis Society have published some findings, which are not dissimilar to those of brain injuries so may be of interest to KABIF members. She kindly agreed to scan this document and email it to KABIF members.

b. Forthcoming Events

Tanesh Bhugobaun confirmed that The Raphael Centre were holding a Memory Rehabilitation Workshop on 21st October 2008. He kindly agreed to email the details to Frances Pierce so that these could be forwarded to the KABIF members. He warned that spaces are limited and places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Gerhard Florschutz confirmed that the Raphael Centre would be holding workshops regularly, every three months, and he would let Frances Pierce have the details so these could be added to the forthcoming events page of the KABIF website.

c. Thank you Headway East Kent

Frances Pierce confirmed that KABIF were very grateful to Headway East Kent for kindly allowing KABIF to hold the meeting today at their premises.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3rd December 2008 at 7 pm at Headway Tunbridge Wells & District, 3 Culverden Park, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9QT.

Gerhard Florschutz very generously said he would arrange for some mince pies for the December KABIF meeting.