

Kent Acquired Brain Injury Forum (KABIF)

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2005 at 2.30 pm

At the Royal British Legion Industries, Aylesford

In Attendance:

Jan Cartmell, Service Manager, The Regard Partnership
Rosanne Corben, Chairman of Maidstone Weald PCT
Diane Drummond, Manager of Headway House Day Centre, Tunbridge Wells & District
Rosalind Eastwood, Head Teacher, East Kent Hospitals School Service
Dr Gerhard Florschutz, Director, The Raphael Medical Centre
Tim Gilbert, Brain Injury Case Manger from Independent Living Solutions
Sarah Keily, Trainee solicitor TSP
Jacqui Locke, Headmistress of West Kent Hospitals School Service
Tony Merriman, Solicitor ASB Law
Pam Munro, Founder & Volunteer of Tunbridge Wells & District Headway
Frances Pierce, Solicitor TSP
Julie Reynolds, Chairwoman, CBIT Kent
Mary Ryan, Occupational Psychologist RBLI
Dennis Smith, President of Tunbridge Wells & District Headway
Susan Ware, Independent Speech & Language Therapist
Andrew Watson, Solicitor TSP (Chair)

1. Apologies for absence

Margaret Bentley, Specialist Commissioner, Maidstone Weald Primary Care Trust
Gill Bond, DART Team
Sophia Chung, Executive Director, S C Support and Care Services Limited
Diane Cloke, Retired Chartered Physiotherapist
Delia Elliman, Brain Injury Case Manager, Harley Reed Consulting
Deborah Harding, Unit Co-ordinator, West Kent Neuro-Rehabilitation Unit
Mike Hope, ABI Coordinator for East Sussex, Brighton and Hove
Bhavna Jones, Service Development Manager, Unsted Park Hospital
Sharon Patmore, Work Psychologist, Jobcentre Plus
Jennifer Stockley, Independent Paediatric Neuro-psychologist, Tadworth Court
Linda Theoff, Single Incident Brain Injury Service, East Kent
Simon Truett, Senior Physiotherapist, Community Neuro Rehab Team, South West Kent PCT
Janet Walker, Physiotherapist and parent of daughter with ABI

2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of 19th January 2005

These were agreed

3. Matters arising

Pam Munro commented that previous corrections to the minutes of the November meeting had not yet been carried out.

4. Information exchange

The meeting was provided with feedback on the gathering organised by Headway and CBIT at the Royal Wells Inn on the 17th February for young people with ABI aged between 16-34 years. The response was very positive and those who attended wanted to plan further events. Notification will be through mailshot.

Headway will be moving in August 2006 to Sevenoaks Hospital. The Day Centre will be in the same building as the West Kent Neuro-Rehabilitation Unit. It is hoped that improvements in service can be achieved by working together. Details of financial agreements have still to be worked out.

The meeting was informed that tickets are available for the Headway & CBIT disco taking place at High Rocks on the 19th March.

Headway opened for an extra day the week beginning 14th February 2005 to cater for more people.

Pam Munro and Jackie Powell attended a recent SABIF meeting. They reported back on a document produced by a nurse detailing a pathway for clients following ABI. Frances Pierce asked if the document could be made available for use on the KABIF website. Pam Munro agreed to follow this up.

The annual lecture hosted by TSP will be given by Simon Fleminger at the Spa Hotel on the 30th June 2005. This will coincide with the KABIF meeting and it was agreed that the KABIF meeting should take place at 4.00 pm instead of 7.00 pm as this will allow people to stay on for the lecture afterwards.

5. Website

Frances Pierce said the site had been revamped since the last meeting. A disclaimer had now been drafted and agreed by the subcommittee. More papers for the information section were requested. Any forthcoming events in Kent can be advertised on the site, all members were encouraged to email details to fpierce@ts-p.co.uk.

Pam Munro informed meeting of Brain Injury Week commencing 14th March and suggested that this was put on the website.

Those involved in helping to set up the website were thanked and any ideas for improvement were requested. It was also suggested that if possible facilities to access the site at meetings should be made available.

6. Presentation – Vocational Assessment Centre – Mary Ryan

What do we do?

Provide in-depth vocational assessment, exploration and guidance to facilitate the formation of realistic occupational goals.

Provide practical advice in relation to further appropriate training and education.

Provide C.V. preparation if required, and advice on interviewee skills.

Prepare a written final report outlining; the assessment process, action plan and recommendations.

The Centre adopts an individual approach to address the vocational needs of both Service and ex-Service men and women, who have a wide range of disabilities. Occupational Psychologists work alongside the client throughout the assessment process, assisting the client to generate informed and realistic occupational choices.

Through individual profiling and sensitive feedback, incorporating both in-depth interview and objective psychometric evaluation, individuals are able to develop greater understanding of their own particular strengths. This information can be used to devise a realistic future long-term or short-term employment career plans. For specified career paths, assessment may be aimed at evaluating potential training outcomes, or suitability for specific roles/careers.

Clients are provided with a full and detailed report following the assessment, incorporating jargon-free interpretation of assessment outcomes, and any recommendations made during the feedback session. The report is owned by the client, ensuring complete confidentiality, and may be passed to external agencies only with the permission of the client.

The Centre is equipped with access to computerized national databases for identifying appropriate training options, and also for evaluating potential employment opportunities within their chosen area.

The Vocational Assessment Centre has enabled ex-Service personnel, with a wide range of disabilities, to secure places on vocational training courses leading to recognized qualifications. Clients have also progressed to various types of employment, through a variety of programmes available both within RBLI, and through external providers.

Questions:

Dennis Smith asked if Headway could refer clients who had been with them for a year. Mary Ryan replied yes as long as they met the background criteria and there were no violent incidents in the client's background. It was asked if dependents of ex-forces such as grandchildren could be seen at Centre. The response was yes, depending on capacity, husbands, wives, children and grandchildren were included.

Pam Munro asked if Headley Court, the MOD Rehabilitation Centre, was for civilians as well as members of the Armed Forces. Mary Ryan's response was that as far as she was aware it was for the Armed Service members. Frances Pierce said Headley Court had completed a KABIF questionnaire and it seems Headley Court takes both. Information at the beginning of the meeting had been given out on the Assisted Living Scheme being built on the RBLI site. Mary Ryan was asked about it and said that it planned to open in July 2005. It contains 40 units which offered accommodation for the older community who wanted access to some support whilst remaining independent. 19 of the flats were already taken and whilst it was intended mainly for ex-Service community there was some flexibility about the entry requirements. Richard Macintyre is the Welfare Manager and could be contacted at RBLI for further information.

Andrew Watson asked if he could refer an ex-forces client who had been involved in a road traffic accident. Mary Ryan said yes.

Mary Ryan was asked about the benefits of the service offered. She said that the assessment gave clients objective data on their capabilities and provides simulation of what it would be like in the workplace.

Ros Eastwood asked or any pointers for the group on getting non ex-Forces clients back to work. She also asked if Mary Ryan could provide written information on the assessment and processes. Frances Pierce agreed that it would be useful. Mary Ryan said she would produce a pathway/document on vocational assessment. This could then be displayed on the KABIF website.

Mary Ryan was asked how her assessment differed from that of the DEA. She responded that it differed because of use of objective psychometric instruments to measure ability more time could be given to client and there was access to a network of assistance based in the charity sector. Furthermore clients with more complicated problems could be seen and assessed. DEA's could refer to their own occupational psychologists on the DWP but the client had to have a specific career in mind. The assessment provided at the Vocational Assessment Centre was designed to help the client choose a career path.

Dennis Smith asked what percentage of clients Mary Ryan saw had ABI. Mary Ryan reported for 2003 it had been over 30% and was rising. It was one of the reasons she had joined KABIF.

Andrew Watson asked if this service was available from other organisations and if there were other occupational psychologists involved in it. Mary Ryan suggested accessing the British Psychological Society for such information. Occupational

therapists and employment consultants also provide a service on the employability of clients after disability. This will not always provide information on the abilities of the client and compatibility with certain jobs.

Frances Pierce asked if Mary Ryan worked with neuro-psychiatrists. Mary Ryan said yes she received referrals from many sources and she would refer clients on to clinical neuro-psychologists, neuro-psychiatrists.

Ros Eastwood asked if Mary Ryan felt such a service would benefit the 16-18 year group. Mary Ryan replied she believe they would find it very helpful and she thought Connexions provide such a service.

7. Presentation by Roseanne Corben – Chairman of Maidstone Weald PCT

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Role of DART (Disability Assessment & Rehabilitation Team) within Maidstone Weald PCT

Background information on DART:

DART is a specialist multidisciplinary Team with Maidstone Weald Primary Care Trust. DART is managed with in Community Service Directorate. The line management is through the Community Rehabilitation Service Manager. Day to day Co-ordination and management of DART is provide by the Co-ordinator, whose role is to ensure the team functions effectively within available resources and to develop the service in line with the National and Local targets and objectives. DART provides neuro-rehabilitation to younger physically disabled people living within Maidstone Weald PCT area.

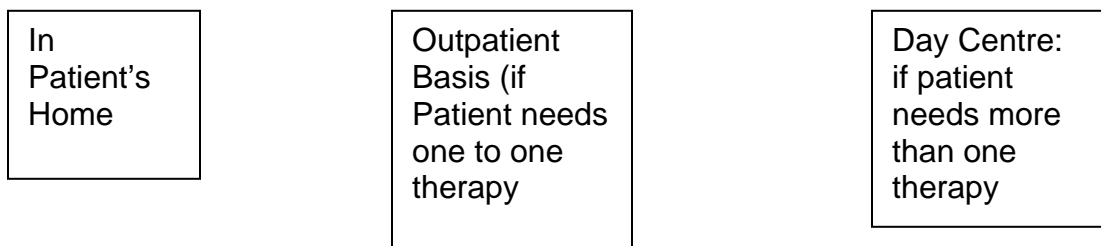
PATHWAY TO DEMONSTRATE JOURNEY OF A TBI PATIENT FROM AN ACUTE HOSPITAL TO COMMUNITY & WHERE DOES DART FIT IN THIS JOURNEY:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Road Traffic Accident | ACUTE HOSPITAL |
| Tertiary Unit/Specialist Unit | DART |

ROLE OF DART IN MANGAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY:

- Joint assessment by AssET (Assessment & Evaluation Team: this is a newly set up team by the Specialist Commissioning) for TBI patients, who are in Acute Hospitals (Maidstone Hospital and Kent & Sussex Hospital) to identify their clinical needs. These cases are then discussed in AssET fortnightly meeting to establish needs of the patient i.e. if
 - patient needs Inpatient Therapy through West Kent Neuro Rehabilitation Unit in Sevenoaks or
 - other Tertiary Unit
 - or Patient can be managed in the Community with the help of DART

- If patient goes to Specialist Unit for Inpatient Therapy – DART closely monitors patient's progress through phone calls and attending case conferences, with view of supporting patient in the community on their return
- Once patient is discharged from these units, DART takes over the care and Patient is offered an assessment by Multi disciplinary Team, which comprises of Physiotherapist Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Disability Liaison Nurse, Dietician
- Patient can be offered Neuro-rehabilitation



- DART works closely with employees and Disability Employment advisers both in statutory and non-statutory organisation (such as disability employment advisor in Royal British Legion Industries) so that patients can return to either their previous employment or can be retrained
- DART liaises with colleagues in Primary Care such as GP's, District Nurses and Consultants in the Acute Hospital
- DART offers driving assessment to the patients who are medically stable to drive. DART has recently received funding for Driving Assessment & Advice Centre (DAAC) from the Department for Transport. DART DAAC is one of the 17 accredited centres in UK and only one in Kent.

Future development and Opportunities:

DART is representing Maidstone Weald PCT in developing seamless service for Acquired Brain Injury Patients in the West Kent area. The Specialist Commissioning Team has agreed funding for a full time consultant Neuro-psychologist post. The Neuro-psychologist will be based with DART and provide input to patients with TBI. This development will provide holistic patient care.

8. Mapping Exercise

Gerhard Florschutz spoke about the latest in the mapping exercise. He said the next step is to establish categories for all the information provided. Agreement needs to be reached to make it user friendly.

Categories suggested:

Information Resource
Rehabilitation in Various Guises
Support and Self-Help
Case Management
Independent Therapy Practitioners
Residential Services
Social Facilities
Vocational and Educational Facilities

There were gaps in the data and those who have responded needed to sign data protection forms before being included on the website.

Thanks were expressed for Gerhard Florschutz's help and the committee's work.

Gerhard Florschutz agreed to liaise with Frances Pierce as he had a patient who he felt could assist with the database work.

Mary Ryan was thanked for agreeing to take the minutes of this meeting.

8. Any other business

Dates and venues for meetings for remainder of year were fixed:

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|-----------------------|--|-----------|
| 6 th April | TSP | 7.00 pm |
| 18 th May | RBLI | 2.30 pm |
| 30 th June | Spa Hotel T Wells (TS&P Lecture Follows) | 4.00 pm |
| July & Aug | None to allow for holidays | |
| 15 th Sept | Venue to be confirmed | |
| 27 th Oct | East Kent | afternoon |
| 1 st Dec | TSP | 7.00 pm |

Frances Pierce had made a presentation to Neuroscience Network about KABIF. Great interest was expressed and she had a very positive response. A copy of her presentation was available to those at the meeting.

Susan Ware asked if anyone knew who was behind a recent advertising campaign where a card on Valentines Day depicted a single rose was sent to her client. The idea was to try and prevent RTA's. The client was a victim of a RTA, she had been upset by it. No clear info was available on originator.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for 6 April 2005 at 7pm at Thomson Snell & Passmore in Tunbridge Wells

Meeting Closed