

Kent Acquired Brain Injury Forum (KABIF)

MINUTES

Of Meeting Held on 27 October 2005

At the East Kent Hospitals School Service, City View, Canterbury

In Attendance:

Louise Brown, Legal Assistant, Thomson Snell & Passmore (minute taker)
Jan Cartmell, The Regard Partnership
Nicky Coffey, Head of Specialist Commissioning, Kent and Medway
Di Drummond, Manager of Headway Tunbridge Wells
Ros Eastwood, East Kent Hospitals Schools Service (our host)
Gerhard Florshutz, The Raphael Medical Centre
Tim Gilbert, Brain Injury Case Manager from Independent Living Solutions
Mike Hope, ABI Co-ordinator for East Sussex, Brighton and Hove
Keith Hutchinson, Hothfield Manor Centre ABI Home
Norman Keen, Vice-Chair of Headway East London and carer consultee on NSF
Linda Kerley, Headway East Kent
Jenny Mazur, mother of ABI adolescent
Tony Merriman, Solicitor, asb-law
Pam Munro, Founder and Volunteer of Tunbridge Wells and District Headway
Georgina Overell, Speech & Language Therapist, East Kent Coastal Teaching PCT
Frances Pierce, Solicitor, Thomson Snell & Passmore (Chair)
Mary Ryan, Occupational Psychologist, RBLI
Dennis Smith, President of Tunbridge Wells and District Headway
Linda Theoff, Brain Injury Case Manager, Buckland Hospital
Lorna Tricker, Trainee Solicitor, Thomson Snell & Passmore
Affy Wajid, ABI Co-ordinator, Bromley Council Social Services
Susan Ware, Independent Speech and Language Therapist
Don Young, Harley Reed Consulting Ltd

1. Apologies for Absence:

Sue Anscombe, Pembury Hospital
Frances Beaumont, Occupational Therapy Services
Janet Bjorn, Consultant Child and Adolescent Neuro-Psychiatrist
Roseann Corben, Chairman of Maidstone Weald PCT
Dr Delamont, Darenth Valley Hospital
Anita Foster, Jacqueline Webb & Co
Bhavna Jones, Unsted Park Hospital
Jacqueline Locke, West Kent Hospitals School Service
Mandy O'Brien, Brain Injury Case Manager
Sharon Patmore, Brain Injury Case Manager
Susan Roome, Tunbridge Wells & District CAB
Julie Reynolds, Solicitor
Patti Simonson, Royal Hospital for Neurodisability
Jennifer Stockley, Independent Paediatric Neuropsychologist, Tadworth Court

Andrew Watson, Solicitor, Thomson Snell & Passmore
Hilary Whibley, Occupational Therapist Community Brain Injury Team,
Medway Maritime Hospital

2. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 15 September 2005

The minutes were approved subject to an amendment requested by Hilary Whibley to the third paragraph of point 4, clarifying the therapists at the Community Brain Injury Team at Medway Maritime Hospital.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting held on 15 September 2005

Sophia Chung was going to make contact with Oliver Mills, Interim Strategic Director of Kent Social Services. She has invited him to attend a KABIF meeting and had received a response from his PA that although he was unable to attend the 1 December meeting, Steve Leidecker, Area Director for Mid Kent Social Services, would like to attend and had requested details and directions. These had been sent on to him by Louise who has also added his name to the database to ensure that he receives minutes and details of future meetings.

4. Information Exchange

Dennis said that he attended an ABI symposium on 21 October at which a presentation was given by Anuraj Varshney of the Disability Assessment and Rehabilitation Team (who is coming to give a talk to KABIF at their next meeting on 1 December) on the problems of driving, and a presentation by Dr Roome, a local GP. on neurological aspects. Dennis said that he raised with Dr Roome the fact that GPs did not seem to understand the neurological problems of the brain-injured and suggested to him the idea of study days for GPs. Dr Roome said that there was meeting already scheduled for GPs on this subject and so it appears that there is someone taking the lead on this. Pam said that Dr Roome has a special interest in neurological problems. Frances agreed to write to Dr Roome to invite him to update the Forum on these issues.

Dennis said that he had a meeting with Ann Carroll who gave a presentation to the PPI (Patient and Public Involvement in Health) Forum about the annual health check they have to carry out. There is a whole raft of questions they have to answer about their current services and their developing services. Dennis said he asked Ann if there are questions on the health check about long-term conditions. If so, there is a better chance that this will be followed up.

Frances said that we need to know which named individuals from the PCT are responsible for the NSF. Nicky said that they are currently mapping out the various services, that there are people in each PCT and she will provide a list of those names to the Forum.

Affy said that there was no real time-frame for the NSF - there are no real targets or budgets and this is a problem. The Forum can help with joined up

thinking and encourage those with representatives under the NSF to share their experiences and thus progress services.

Tim Gilbert said that he had met with Carol Mattock, Camilla Herbert and Mark Searle some time ago to talk about NSF and targets etc. The conclusion was that all the PCTs will be becoming one and the strategic health authorities will amalgamate. Nicky confirmed that the nine PCTs currently in this region will go down to three.

Mike said that the quality, standards and inspection regime will be down to Headway Groups and Forums such as KABIF. The PCTs have currently suspended all decisions until they know their new shapes. Frances said that whatever changes do occur, the people will be the same and so we will need to know who they are. Nicky said that the Trust is a resource for KABIF to use until things start to happen and change and she is happy to update KABIF on those changes as they occur.

Frances said that she would put Nicky on the agenda as a permanent fixture so that she is able to report at each meeting and if she is not able to come to a meeting then hopefully she could send someone in her place instead. Nicky agreed with this suggestion.

Mary then reported on the official opening on 8 November of the Assisted Living Scheme being built on the RBLI site for ex-servicemen of 65+.

Jenny told the Forum about her son Graeme who is a young adult who has suffered a brain injury. He is on a camping trip to Iceland, sponsored by Timberland, with a group of similarly affected young people, i.e. those suffering from physical and neurological difficulties. He is due back this coming Sunday and Jenny said that he has been having a very good time and it has been tremendous that he has been able to undertake something like this. It is part of the Young Person's Initiative and it is hoped that some local media will be at Stansted Airport when they arrive back this Sunday. Pam asked if it had been difficult finding buddies to accompany each of the participants on the trip and Jenny said that they had found them quite easily.

Jan reported on the Headway Conference which took place on 6 and 7 October. She said that one of the speakers, Alan Tennant, Professor of Rehabilitative Medicine, had said that everyone should be sensitive to the socio-economic factors of head injury, i.e. the fact that it varies considerably around the country. To illustrate this point, Mike said that whilst Greater London tends to have fewer RTAs, a frequent cause of head injuries, they do have a higher rate of assaults causing head injury. Di said that she had seen some statistics showing that people in the 25-45 age group were at a higher risk of being assaulted and that this was a rising trend. Pam asked if anyone had seen research on the incidence of people who had suffered a head injury consequently suffering the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Mary said that she had seen research on the correlation between head injury and dementia and she would look this out for us.

5. Neuro-Rehab Stakeholders Group - Debbie Harding

Debbie was not at the meeting today and so no report could be given on this.

6. Mapping exercise report - Gerhard Florschutz

Gerhard reported that the mapping exercise was now complete, having been taken over by another resident at the Raphael Centre, Sarah, after Donna had had to decline from continuing her work on it. Gerhard said that it is now being put onto disk. The next step is therefore to reconvene the mapping exercise committee and the website committee with a view to getting the exercise onto the website.

A date in November will be fixed for this to take place.

Frances is to write to both Donna and Sarah to thank them for their work on the mapping exercise questionnaires.

7. Headway

Di reported that Headway Tunbridge Wells are still looking at various alternative premises to relocate to by June 2006. There is one possibility which is being considered at present.

She said that Headway are carrying out a general review of their services. They would like to get out more into the community and work more closely with other agencies. She asked the Forum for their ideas on how Headway can support people in the area.

8. KABIF's Project for 2006

Frances told the Forum that the Project had been discussed at the Steering Committee and a decision had been made to focus on Young Adults, and in that context we would specifically look at housing, independent living, and the production of information following the mapping exercise.

It was then necessary to discuss who would be on the Project Sub-Committee and it was thought that the most appropriate people would be Ros, Debbie, Mandy, someone from CBIT, and possibly Jenny's son Graeme - Jenny said that she thought he would like to do this. Jenny said she would come along herself to the first couple of meetings. Norman said that he would like to suggest adding in family and informal carers as part of the issues of ABI in young adults upon which the Project should focus.

9. Talk by Linda Theoff, Brain Injury Case Manager at Buckland Hospital, Dover

The Forum was pleased to welcome Linda who talked about her work as a Brain Injury Case Manager in the Single Incident Brain Injury Service East Kent, based at the East Kent Neurological Rehabilitation Unit at the Buckland Hospital in Dover. The unit a multi-disciplinary team consisting of nurses, therapists, medical staff, psychologists, dietician, social service care manager and specialist nurses. The service is led by a consultant physician.

Linda said that her background was in nursing and she had taken up her full-time post with the Community Team in 2001, having undertaken a counselling course. Her role has been very much moulded by L J Conradie, consultant neuropsychologist. She has an active of 68 and total caseload of 173 patients, which means that it is impossible to manage each one in-depth and therefore at times tends to a case of crisis management.

Linda gave us an outline of her day-to-day role. She provides advice and support for individuals who have suffered a single incident brain injury and the families/carers, Linda assesses new referrals and liaises initially with acute services. She is the first point of contact and from then on she attends weekly MDT meetings on the unit and liaises with the patient and their families. She then follows up each patient post-discharge, co-ordinating the provision of services in the community. There is no definite time-scale for this. Linda will have contact with possibly the police and employers, and other psychiatric services.

Linda chairs a meeting held every two weeks and attended by members of the Psychology Service and some therapists from the unit. She also deals with all out-of-area referrals and liaises with people to identify appropriate out-of-area placements. She also has a weekly meeting with the psychology team from whom she gets supervision and support.

Other aspects of Linda's work concerns the training of care agency staff and there have been two lots of training.

Linda is involved in the running of the Focus Network Group which is a group of patients which originated from 3/4 patients that L J Conradie was seeing in the clinic together. The group meetings consist of informal sessions when people can exchange ideas, help to support each other and generally socialise. The group meets once a month. The Community Team decide who is a suitable candidate for this group.

Linda also meets with Headway once a month and attends a neuro-rehab working group to look at the available outreach services.

Talk by Linda Kerley, Manager of Headway East Kent

Linda confirmed that Headway East Kent Ltd offers support and care in Canterbury, Thanet, Ashford, Dover and Folkestone, and is affiliated to the charity Headway.

Each of the five Headway houses across East Kent is run by a support worker helped by volunteers, and there are over 100 people attending, one to three days a week. They have a service agreement with social services. Referrals come from GPs, social services or are self-referrals. Headway finds that it has often picked up people who have been isolated for years.

Linda explained that they initially carry out a three-month assessment. The aim is rehabilitation and they tend to keep away from health issues.

There is a Family Support Worker who works directly with carers support groups throughout the area and have regular meetings with relatives and carers for mutual support and information-sharing.

The annual turnover costs are £200,000 and although a large part of this is received from social services, 40% of it has to be found by Headway themselves via fundraising, grants and awards. They rely on charity a great deal. The premises themselves are provided by the Trust.

Linda said they now have a day centre manager which is costly but well worth the expense. The manager's job is to work with the staff and to strike a balance between ensuring conformity with regulations and at the same time protecting the Headway name. The manager has proved to be of huge benefit to the clients, many of whom have had the way paved for them to move on. Essentially the cost of attending for each client is £38, of which only £29 is provided by social services, hence there is a large gap.

There are five directors of Headway East Kent Ltd all of whom have been in the role for a number of years but, despite the fact that they all have their own full-time jobs, remain to committed to the job.

10. Any other business

Brain Injury Awareness Week: it was suggested that we try to focus on social services or GPs.

Mike mentioned that the next SABIF meeting is to take place on 17 November 2005 at *asb-law* in Brighton.

Pam mentioned that Headway is looking to recruit a SE Region Liaison Officer. Frances said that she had received an email about this and that it had been sent on to Chris Merriman to put on the KABIF website.

Next meeting: Thursday 1 December at 7.00 p.m. at the offices of Thomson Snell & Passmore, 3 Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1NX

**Meetings for 2006: 08 February (evening)
04 April (afternoon)
29 June (afternoon)
18 August (afternoon)
11 October (evening)
08 December (afternoon)**