

## **Kent Acquired Brain Injury Forum (KABIF)**

### **MINUTES**

**of meeting held on 30 June 2005 at 4.00 p.m.  
at The Spa Hotel, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells**

#### **In attendance:**

Louise Brown, Legal Assistant, Thomson Snell & Passmore  
Sophia Chung, Executive Director, S C Support and Care Services Ltd  
Ros Eastwood, East Kent Hospitals Schools Service  
Gerhard Florschultz, Director, Raphael Medical Centre  
Deborah Harding, Unit Co-ordinator, West Kent Neurorehabilitation Centre  
Teresa Harrison-Best  
Mike Hope, ABI Co-ordinator for East Sussex, Brighton and Hove  
Carol Foord, The Regard Partnership  
Jacqui Locke, Head Teacher, West Kent Hospital School Service  
Tony Merriman, Solicitor, asb-law  
Pam Munro, Founder and Volunteer of Tunbridge Wells and District Headway  
Mandy O'Brien, Brain Injury Case Manager  
Frances Pierce, Solicitor, Thomson Snell & Passmore (Chair)  
Mary Ryan, Occupational Psychologist, RBLI  
Dennis Smith, President of Tunbridge Wells and District Headway  
Ella Squires, Manager, Avanti  
Jennifer Stockley, Independent Paediatric Neuropsychologist, Tadworth Court  
Susan Ware, SALT  
Pam Wells, Headley Court

#### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Sue Anscombe, Occupational Therapist, Pembury Hospital  
Penny Bulley, Physiotherapist, West Kent Neurorehabilitation Unit  
Di Drummond, Manager, Headway House Day Centre, Tunbridge Wells & District  
Bhavna Jones, Service Development Manager, Unsted Park Hospital  
Georgina Overell, Speech and Language Therapist, Herne Bay and Kent and Canterbury Hospital  
Maggie Pauling, Therapy Manager, South West Kent PCT  
Patti Simonson, Principal Social Worker, Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability  
Linda Theoff, Single Incident Brain Injury Service, East Kent  
Carol Underdown, Brain injury case manager and vocational consultant, OBICM  
Andrew Watson, Solicitor, Thomson Snell & Passmore

#### **2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 18 May 2005**

These were approved.

### **3. Matters arising**

With regard to KABIF's continuing search for a representative from social services to have a presence within KABIF, Pam Wells said that she had made contact with the social work team at Pembury Hospital. She could not recall the name of the person given to her as a potential representative for KABIF but she would chase this up. Gerhard said that in this respect he had written to Peter Gilroy, Strategic Director of Social Services in Kent, but had not received a reply. He will however persevere.

Frances said that she was still chasing Steve Sparks about the identity of the NSF Co-ordinator for Kent. However, given that a merger of two PCTs is presently under way it is not clear who is going to be in the various posts.

### **4. Information Exchange**

Ros said she had attended the UKABIF conference and the CBIT conference, both of which were very good although there was no one in education at either conference. She said that the BISWIG seminar is due to take place on 22 September.

Frances said she had attended the BABICM conference which was very interesting. Jo Clark-Wilson had displayed data output showing neuro-rehab results which graphically illustrated the unpredictable nature of the client base. She has been encouraged to publish this.

Jennifer said that the Dr Santos had recently been appointed as a neuropsychiatrist in the county and Dr Mike Dilly was to be giving a talk about behaviour to Headway on the following Monday.

It was thought that KABIF should consider asking a neuropsychiatrist to give a talk to KABIF next year.

Dennis said that on 14 September Headway Court celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He explained the background to Headway Court and said that it had been instituted and sponsored by Headway and is a block of flats – eight in all, seven of which are used by people with ABI to enable them to live independently. The eighth flat is occupied by the manager. The ethos is all about independent living as there is a major problem facing brain-injured people when their parents or spouses/partners die. Real improvements have been observed in those who have lived there and it has often been possible to decrease the level of support from its initial high level. The type of support that the occupants of Headway Court receive includes helping them to do carrying out daily tasks within the flat, shopping etc. The concern now is what happens to those who need this type of assistance who are much older than the original client group.

### **5. Neuro-Rehab Stakeholders Group – Debbie Harding**

Debbie said that the Stakeholders Group is now called the Neuro-Rehab Network and it is trying to spread into East Kent. She said that Margaret Bentley had now moved on from her post which was an enormous loss as

she was a great advocate for ABI and will maintain her interest in the subject. Debbie said that they were now waiting to hear who will replace her.

She said that there were three sets of trust mergers going on at present. In addition to this, various PCTs were presently merging, namely the South West Kent and Maidstone & Weald PCT and the Medway and Swale PCT. Also the East and West Kent NHS & Social Care Trusts are merging.

Debbie said that the Strategic Health Authority ran an NSF event recently which was very well attended by many people with head injuries or neurological needs, so it was a very challenging day. A symposium is planned for 21 October and there is due to be a Department of Health event for the NSF on 29 October.

She said that there was a neuropsychologist now in all the PCT teams except for Dartford which will have one by the autumn.

All were shocked at the news that Harrowlands may be closing. KABIF had been approached to lend assistance. It is hoped that it will survive. All were encouraged to support them. It is hoped that a private investor will be able to assist.

Finally, Debbie said that planning permission is still awaited before it was known whether or not Headway could be relocated to the Neuro-Rehab Unit at Sevenoaks Hospital.

**6. Website [www.kabif.org.uk](http://www.kabif.org.uk)**

There was nothing at present to report with regard to the furtherance of the website but members were prevailed upon to send in events which could be posted on the website.

**7. Mapping exercise**

Donna Ledbeater of the Raphael Centre was thanked for her work on completing and collating the mapping exercise.

**8. Headway Update – Di Drummond**

Di had sent her apologies for the meeting so was unable to give her update.

**9. Kit Malia Conference – 5 and 6 October 2007 – Dr Ella Squires**

Ella explained the background to how this conference came about. She said that she had wanted to put on a conference specifically for carers, pitched at carers who were looking after people at home. It would give them a chance to meet other people in the same situation as them.

It is a two-day conference and will cover such topics as looking after yourself as a carer; cognitive areas; assessing needs. A lot can be got out of a conference such as this and there is a lot of information to assimilate but it is held at quite a gentle pace.

The cost of the conference is £2,000 and there are spaces for up to fifty people to attend – carers are free of charge but professional people are asked to pay £100 a head. Ella said that she had sent some of her staff to previous conferences and they had got a lot out of it. The professionals who attend tend to be careworkers.

The problem at present was finding a venue for the conference. Frances suggested that KABIF could offer support on this, e.g. finding sponsorship.

There was then a general discussion about the possibility of incorporating the Kit Malia conference with a KABIF conference, running them in tandem or with the KABIF conference running on the second day. However, the general consensus was that this could be an organisational nightmare. Some people might feel that confidentiality issues would be at a different level and some people will have a political perspective. They two would not mix; Ella said that the carers find the conference very draining and would just want to get home afterwards.

Frances therefore asked Ella to let her know in what way she felt that KABIF could help with the conference and, on as a separate matter, canvassed the Forum's opinion on the idea of a KABIF conference. Mandy, who had been instrumental in the organisation of the SABIF conference, stressed that there is an enormous amount of work which needs to be done in organising such as conference and this should not be underestimated; on the other hand, there is a huge need to raise awareness with the NSF and other important topics such as housing and vocational needs. Ros however felt that we needed to raise the profile of KABIF before we can consider holding a conference.

Debbie felt that KABIF should instead invest their energies in a big project, e.g. housing needs, or something which is small but creative. We could then go to conferences and tell people about it, thereby plugging many pockets of opportunity. Frances asked the Forum for any ideas on which project KABIF could take up. Suggestions were received as follows:

- housing
- independent living
- vocational training and a return to work
- adolescents and 60+
- Basic information about brain injury by using the mapping exercise
- Drugs and alcohol
- Dual diagnosis (i.e. a patient suffering from Huntingdons who then hits their head)
- Mental health
- Risk – share and assess
- Buddy system in the community

It was then decided that a small sub-committee would be set up to debate the idea for the KABIF project, consisting of Gerhard, Di, Frances, Ros, Debbie, Mary, Mandy and Sophia.

**10. Any Other Business**

None

**Next meeting: 7.00 p.m. pm Thursday 15 September 2005 at asb law, 12 Mill Street, Maidstone, Kent (map attached)**