

Kent Acquired Brain Injury Forum (KABIF)

MINUTES

Of the meeting held on 30 September 2004 at 7pm

At the offices of Thomson Snell & Passmore, Lonsdale Gate, Tunbridge Wells

In Attendance:

Louise Brown, Paralegal, Thomson Snell & Passmore
Sophia Chung, Executive Director, S C Support and Care Services Limited
Diane Cloke, Retired Chartered Physiotherapist
Rosalind Eastwood, Head Teacher, East Kent Hospitals School Service
Tim Gilbert, Brain Injury Case Manager from Independent Living Solutions
Marilyn Goddard, Scheme Manager, Headway, Rusthall
Deborah Harding, Unit Co-ordinator, West Kent Neuro-Rehabilitation Unit
Mike Hope, ABI Coordinator for East Sussex, Brighton and Hove
Judy Horwood, Chairman, Headway Tunbridge Wells and District
Jacqui Locke, Head Teacher, West Kent Hospital School Service
Pam Munro, Founder and Volunteer of Tunbridge Wells and District Headway
Frances Pierce, Solicitor, Thomson Snell & Passmore
Julie Reynolds, Chairwoman, CBIT Kent
Mandy Richmond, Consultant Occupational Therapist and Case Manager, Harrison Associates
Mary Ryan, Vocational Assessment and Occupational Psychologist, Royal British Legion, Aylesford
Julia Selby, Speech & Language Therapist, Adult East Kent Coastal Teaching PCT
Dennis Smith, President of Tunbridge Wells and District Headway
Jennifer Stockley, Independent Paediatric Neuro-psychologist, Tadworth Court
Linda Theoff, Single Incident Brain Injury Service, East Kent
Pi Townsend, Training Officer, The Citizens Advice Bureau, Tunbridge Wells
Simon Truett, Community Neuro Rehab Team, South West Kent PCT
Andrew Watson, Solicitor, Thomson Snell & Passmore (Chair)
Hilary Whibley, Occupational Therapist, Community Brain Injury Team, West Kent NHS and Social Care Trust

1. Apologies for absence

Jan Cartmell, Service Manager, The Regard Partnership
Rosanne Corben, Chairman of Maidstone Weald PCT
Diane Drummond, Manager, Headway House Day Centre, Tunbridge Wells & District
Gerhard Florschütz, Director, Raphael Medical Centre
Tom Tagoe, Brain Injury Case Manager, Harley Reed Consulting
Susan Ware, Independent Speech & Language Therapist

2. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 19 August 2004

These were approved

3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 19 August 2004

None

4. Website www.kabif.org.uk

There was general discussion regarding the proposed content of the website. It was stressed that we do need volunteer assistance to help with inputting data to the website. We should also set realistic and obtainable objectives. Apart from putting the minutes of our meetings on the website, the most important thing is to get the database of services on to the website for the use of clients/carers. It was also important that the website should give clear pathways to other helpful websites. It would also be helpful to have some general information for people's guidance but without seeking in any way to duplicate in detail information which will be attainable elsewhere.

Julie Reynolds suggested that the KABIF website should not overlap with the CBIT and Headway websites and was very concerned that we do not overlap and duplicate our efforts. She would like CBIT National to link into the local services and is co-ordinating the CBIT website herself.

Various people have contacts in the media, but it was suggested that before we seek media exposure we have a little more tangible to report, e.g. to get the website properly up and running and to complete the 'mapping' exercise.

5. Talk to the Neuro-Rehab Stakeholders Group, January 2005

It was felt that it would be inappropriate for Debbie Harding to speak on behalf of KABIF. It was suggested that Frances Pierce and one other from the Forum should go to the group meeting to represent the Forum.

Debbie Harding did, however, agree that she would report regularly to the Forum regarding developments in neuro-rehabilitation.

In passing it was mentioned that Matilda Buckley at CAB Sevenoaks is involved in a CAB project and it was agreed that we would invite her to come along to a future meeting of the Forum to fill us in on what they are doing.

6. Steering Group

It was agreed that it would be helpful for the steering group to continue to discuss practical things such as how the Forum can move forward. The present steering committee consists of Pam Munro, Andrew Watson, Frances Pierce, Mike Hope and Tony Merriman and it was suggested that Ros Eastwood and Debbie Harding might join as well.

7. Mapping exercise of Kent

This is going well, but everyone needs to be encouraged to respond to the mapping questionnaire which has been sent out. It was suggested that the questionnaire could be improved by deleting the reference to 'specialist' services since some people might be deterred from responding if they did not consider their service to be a specialist one.

There was also discussion as to whether we should include services which overlap the county boundaries and it was considered desirable to do so within reason.

8. Problems with Statementing – Ros Eastwood and Jennifer Stockley

We were given a very helpful and informative talk with some very practical pointers and we will seek to put the relevant details on the website of the salient points.

9. Any other business

Future Meetings

It was decided to alternate between evening and afternoon meetings.

Report from Deborah Harding

Deborah reported that the Neuro Assessment Service is very close to happening and should be launched by the end of October. The idea is to join up all West Kent PCTs with other trusts to aim for a seamless referral service. There would be common documentation and referral forms. The health providers are aiming for an October neuro-rehab symposium which will involve information sharing, problem sharing and sharing of best practice and it is thought this may be held every other year.

The inpatient beds at Sevenoaks are to be increased from six to eight for West Kent with four to (?) six neuro-psychiatric/ABI beds. The plan is to repatriate people who at present have to go to London. They are currently six months into a three-year plan.

There is a plan to have a neuro-psychiatrist in post for West Kent by 2005. A new community neuro team is to be launched for South West Kent PCT (physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy) to augment the existing service.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that this would be on Wednesday 3 November at Aylesford at 2.30pm.