









****

|  |
| --- |
| Name of Subgroup:  Day Opportunities; Employment, Education & Training |
| Date & Time:  12th February 2015 9.30 am till 12.30 pm |
| Venue:  Farley Hill Community Centre |
| Who came:  Tracey Brennan (LBC), Val Sheridan (LBC), Kerry Rees (LBC), Chris Brandom (LBC), Anita Hempenstall (DWP), Anna Clough (LBC), Julie Woodhouse (YAWNLIFE), Janine Macey (LBC), Lorna De Freitas (Service User), Paul McCann (Service User), Tracey Finlan (Service User), Peter Vallely (Service User)    Who let us know they couldn’t make it:  Diane Walsh (LBC), Yvonne McKinlay (POhWER), Alan Fletcher(Healthwatch), Marilyn Orridge(DWP), |

MC900442022[1] Everyone introduced themselves to the group.

MC900299547[1] Previous minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting, held on the 03;11;14, were agreed by all present and signed off as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Pad:

This was reviewed by those at the meeting and the updated action pad is attached.



Agenda Items for today:

Update on Transformation of Day Services; New Build, and Community Bases:

* Janine M explained the changes that were happening at Bramingham and what these will mean to the service. Janine also reminded people that there are 3 work streams that meet to go through the different areas of work around the changes that are happening.

The plans for the Stopsley site have been approved and site is now being cleared.

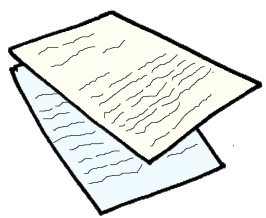
One group has moved out of Bramingham and are now based at Hightown Community Centre and the next group are planning to move out in early summer. Lorna D spoke about the move to Hightown and said that there is a lot going on, that they all liked it there and that it is working well.

They have started to look for a venue for those with Autism and the day care customers that are currently within New Horizons will be transferring over to the Bramingham list in the near future and so will be supported by Bramingham staff.

* Julie W asked if carers had seen the revised plans for the new build as she felt that they would like to have another look now that changes have had to be made to meet planning rules.

**Action:** Janine agreed to look at restarting the meetings around the new build now that it had moved to the next stage. The parents/carers of those who may be based in the new build would need to be identified and informed of a meeting.

* Janine confirmed that she had been able to release some of her time so that she can concentrate on the new build and the movement of those going out to other venues.

What wider activities are happening in Luton?

Tracey spoke about ‘Team Beds and Luton’ and how Alison Wright can support sports activities. Team Beds and Luton do have a website - teambedsandluton.co.uk - around what sports activities are currently running. People are asked to look at this and support those activities the people they support are interested in, as support is needed for activities to become sustainable.

The ultimate aim would be for the information on activities to be consistently available and for more activities to be held in community centres so that they are more accessible. People are reminded that if they must bring along their own support if they need it as care support will not be provided.

* The question was asked; who would be responsible for keeping the information on activities up to date?

Is this the DRC?

**Action:** Chris will make contact with the DRC and see how they feel about this.

* Tracey told the group that the ‘Luton Services Guide for Adults with a Learning Disability’ that was printed in the past has now been incorporated into the Luton Borough Council Luton Adult Directory.

Update on Transport:

* Some transport issues that have been raised over transport buses and timings of some buses were taken to the Transport Workstream. The Passenger Transport Unit asked to be informed of any issues/concerns so that they can deal with them, as they contract out to Premier, A to B and London Hire.
* Polly is going to look into meeting with Arriva and local Taxi firms around access to these services as well as the extra prices that taxi’s charge for those using wheelchairs. Tracey told the group that recently a taxi driver had explained to her that private hire taxi’s are now restricted as to the areas of the town centre that they can pick up and drop off in. This restriction is because the town centre now have ranks for black cabs that private hire vehicles are unable to use, so when they pick up/drop off in town they are doing so on yellow lines, this gets picked up by CCTV and they then receive a fine; this also applies when picking up/dropping off at the railway station.
* There was a group conversation around how access to opportunities is restricted by the fact that a bus pass can no longer be used before 9.30am. Chris B confirmed that this is a major problem for his team when they are tasked with getting people into work.

The DWP confirmed that they look at appointment times because of the 9.30am bus pass restrictions. ESA clients particularly need a high level of support and often the barrier to accessing transport is a barrier too far.

Some people have been having difficulty with being able to get a bus pass; this can be down to the interpretation of the eligibility criteria.

The criteria is attached here: 

* Kerry R told the group that transitions are now a group that includes travel training for buses as well as other things, such as bike riding and walking as an alternative. The issue of bus passes is a big hindrance for those in transitions.
* Tracey said that she will speak to Polly so that the issues voiced today can be raised with the transport group.

 Update from New Horizons; changes to services.

* Chris confirmed that New Horizons currently have 85 people in work placements, the new recording system may show a change in these statistics as not all the correct information has pulled through from the old system. This may show a change in the % rates in the future.
* Chris feels that New Horizons are also working with a more challenging group of individuals with volunteering into paid work. Chris has a meeting with NOAH to see if there may be more voluntary outcomes into paid outcomes.
* Apprentice Steps: the 2nd cohort of learners started in September and Chris is still hoping for some places with the police force.
* Chris confirmed that the day service side of New Horizons will be transferring to the Bramingham model, they will still be based at Farley but they will be supported by Bramingham staff. This is a small change for these individuals and will not be very noticeable.
* A new provider for New Horizons is being considered; the council will commission the new service. Councillor Hussain will be taking this to the Council Executive and if it the agreement is confirmed then the staff will go into consultation and the new provider could be in place as early as 1st June.

Chris said that the meeting with the possible new provider showed how different the services were that people offered. So it was agreed that a pathway would be set up between Luton and a new provider so that people knew what to expect.

A new provider should be able to bring along new specialisms and as they are not a council service it also means that as a service they can apply for funding streams that cannot currently be accessed. This also means that a new provider can look at social enterprises and business opportunities. DWP confirmed that this could be a good move for those looking for support.

* DWP confirmed that they are seeing people that are being left out of current systems and are only then seen when they are heading towards a crisis, they would prefer to see them before this.

Developing A pathway – Where are the Gaps?

* Peter V talked to the group around what he finds to do with his time during the week. He goes to a number of things on a Tuesday Thursday and a Friday, that happen in a variety of places, but he is not aware of where he can go to on a Wednesday or Friday. Peter and Tracy F also spend a bit of time accessing the town centre on the days that they do not have somewhere else to go.

There are some gaps in their time during the day but they have started to hear more about how to find out what is on that they might want to try. Peter and Tracy also told the group that they do know of a number of things that they happen in the evenings that they usually attend: The Cinema, Flag Nights, Swirl Disco, Mencap Disco and a club in Dunstable.

* Swimming is something that is regularly available for people to join in with; Saturday sessions at Lewsey Pool and Swim Fit on a Friday at Lea Manor.

Tracey B also reminded the group that the Hydrotherapy pool at Woodlands can be hired on a Saturday and possibly during the school holidays for £10 per hour. There are no lifeguards supplied so any support needed for a swim session will need to be supplied by the group that make the booking.

For now all enquiries to make a booking for Woodlands Hydro pool need to go through Alison Wright at Team Beds and Luton: [Alison@teambedsandluton.co.uk](mailto:Alison@teambedsandluton.co.uk)

The disability bikes will be available for use in Stockwood Park by the spring and Anita from the DWP suggested that Diverse FM could be contacted as they do offer music courses.

It was agreed by everyone that the gaps in provision and activities will show up more when someone is in place to maintain and update a directory or services and activities.

Delivery Plan / Terms of Reference for this group.

* Delivery Plan: The group went through the areas on the delivery plan that relate to this subgroup. There were discussions around where we are now, so that the RAG rating for Q4 could be agreed, as well as discussions around the timescales and any additional information to be added.

The relevant updated area of the delivery plan is included here:



* Terms of Reference for this group: The group were not able to update the Terms of Reference today as we ran out of time; this will be taken forward to the next meeting.

****Any Other Business:

* Alan Fletcher (Healthwatch) was unable to be at today’s meeting but he asked that the group be told that he had heard of proposed changes to some Arriva bus services. He believes many of these changes will affect the services going to the L&D Hospital, as routes are changing to go directly up the busway and not straight up Dunstable Road. He feels this could also mean less wheelchair and disabled spaces available as well as people having to cross over the main Dunstable Road to get to the hospital.

Objections could be raised on the internet or at the Arriva office in The Mall, this consultation finished at the end of January with a proposed start date of April. AF feels that this consultation was not very well promoted and that many people would not have known about it.

Kerry R said that she believes the 24/24 bus route is also under the review and this affects transitions students as well as colleges and schools.

* The group were told about a ‘Hear My Voice’ Event being run by Heather McKinlay from Royal Mencap. This is an event for service users so that they can gain a better understanding of how elections work and the experience of what it is like to vote. The event is on the 9th March from 1pm till 3pm at Hightown Sports & Arts Centre.

Following this Mencap are looking at setting up a Hustings in Luton, this will be an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates up for election. It is hoped that this will happen in April and it will be open to service users and carers.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MC900432664[1] | The date of the next meeting has been agreed as:  **Date: Tuesday 9th June**  **Time: 10.30 am till 12.30 pm**  **Venue: Farley Community Centre** |

* **Please take note that the start time of this meeting has been changed to 10.30am; to accommodate service users using bus passes after 9.30am.**