

Bradford District Care Patient and Public Involvement Forum.



NOTES FOLLOWING A MEETING OF THE BDCPPI FORUM Thursday 30th November 2006

Over 30 people attended the meeting. Most were people with a learning disability, with a group from Bradford People First and a group from Keighley Resource Centre. Others included carers, 'professionals' and Forum members. These are notes of the above meeting but as before, include updated information at the time of writing 28th January 2007.

John Agate

Issues from last meeting:

FAIR ACCESS TO CARE SERVICES & CHARGES

Bradford Council gives Bradford District Care Trust money to provide social care services. Because there is a shortage of money the Council would like to provide services only to people who need them most. They hope people who do not get services from the Trust in future will be able to get support from other organisations. The Council hopes this can be organised for early 2007 when it will make a decision.

(THE COUNCIL'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MET ON THE 16TH JANUARY 2007. IT AGREED THAT FURTHER WORK NEEDED TO BE DONE BEFORE IT COULD MAKE A DECISION.)

Service users and carers are concerned they may not qualify for continuing services under the Fair Access to Social Care Services assessment. The Trust has offered reassurance that no services would be withdrawn without a full assessment and service users and carers will be fully involved. The Trust anticipates only a small number of people would be affected.

It would take a very long time to provide every service user with a full assessment. Following consultation with service users and carers the Trust has agreed that, as most people will clearly qualify for continuing services, appropriately trained staff will undertake a screening 'check' to confirm this is so. Individual service users and carers will be told when this will happen and will be given the opportunity to be involved.

Where the check raises questions about continuing care a full assessment will be undertaken.

Bradford Council has already agreed to charge more for social care services. Although most people in the meeting knew this, they were less clear about how much the charges would be and when they were being introduced. In particular carers did not understand how the charges for each service user were worked out.

It was felt that, although information in general was often available it did not reach the majority of people in an accessible written format.

Copies of a charging information sheet presented at recent Council/Trust consultations were handed out in the meeting. See end of these notes for a copy.

ASSESSMENT, APPEALS & COMPLAINTS

The lack of accessible written information on assessment, appeals and complaints was raised at the Forum meeting 21st September. The Trust had been invited to comment on the notes of the meeting. Those comments were sent out with the last Forum meeting notes. The Forum was not satisfied with the response about assessment etc and asked the Trust for a further written response for today's meeting. This did not prove possible in the time available but Colin Perry did attend the meeting from the Trust.

It was agreed that another written response would be made available from the Trust to be included in these notes for circulation by mid January 2007. Although a written response has now been made, the Forum needs time to consider it and will deal with the matter at the next 'open' Forum meeting (28th March).

CHANGES TO PATIENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND THE BRADFORD DISTRICT CARE FORUM

National consultations are still going on but changes to service user and carer involvement will be made by the end of 2007. As part of the changes the Bradford District Care Forum will be replaced by a new organisation called LINKs (Local Involvement Networks).

Central government will give money to Bradford Council to appoint a local organisation to run the Bradford Local Involvement Network. This will cover all health and social care

within Bradford including Learning Disability. How this will work has not yet been decided but it seems Bradford will be able to agree its own local arrangements.

From the 1st January 2007 there have been changes to existing Forum support arrangements. These are now provided by the Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health based in Leeds. However, 3 members of the old BACC forum support organisation now work for the Commission but remain based in Bradford. They provide support for all the Bradford Forums. Although no longer part of BACC they continue to share the same office.

Derek Gibson supports the Bradford District Care Forum.

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TRUST FOUNDATION STATUS

Bradford District Care Trust has said it " ... hopes to become a Foundation Trust in April 2008. This gives plenty of time to explain to everyone in more detail."

The Forum is concerned that service users and carers are empowered to take an active role in this development from the outset. Service users and carers will be expected to undertake important jobs in the new structure.

The Forum expects the Trust to produce a PPI (service user and carer) strategy for developing the Foundation Status submission. Given the intention to gain approval by April 2008 the Forum feels it is not too early to begin patient and public involvement by April 2007 or earlier.

A NEW INDEPENDENT LEARNING DISABILITIES ORGANISATION IN BRADFORD

The possibility of a new organisation was raised by John Agate at the 21st September Forum meeting (see notes of that meeting). In particular this idea followed on from consideration of;

- changes to Patient and Public Involvement (service user and carer involvement)
- the development of the Foundation Trust.
- Empowerment has been central to government policy for a number of years. What does it mean?

At the 30th November meeting John introduced ideas that any new organisation would need to think about. Service users, carers and voluntary organisations were invited to join in the debate. Please contact John if you are interested. A small group of carers is expected to meet in February.

- **Promote Empowerment through democratic independent collective action**

- **Provide a key point of contact for consultation and negotiation**
- **Involvement in the scrutiny of services**
- **Involvement with key organisations to ensure an appropriate LD profile**
- **Promote self help/support between service users and carers**
- **Be a consumer orientated organisation**
- **Work in partnership with existing organisations**
- **Be complementary – avoid duplication**
- **Anticipate and prepare to respond to issues that affect Learning Disability**

At the 30th November meeting two organisations present questioned the need for a new organisation and felt it would lead to duplication and confusion. John repeated he was putting forward ideas to promote debate and a new organisation was only at the idea stage.

A website was considered a good way of sharing information. Attention was drawn to a new website soon to be established by the Partnership Board. The point was raised that not everyone had access to or could use a computer. Bradford Central Libraries were suggested as a suitable point for access by service users where help would be available.

New Items

DENTAL CARE BRADFORD & AIREDALE PCT QUESTIONNAIRE

The Primary Care Trust is doing a satisfaction survey about 'special' dental surgeries for people who find it difficult to use every day services. Some 8 surgeries were listed but not Waddiloves. Of those service users present at the 30th November meeting no one attended the 'special' surgeries listed. One or two used everyday surgeries but most used Waddiloves. Service users and Carers all praised Waddiloves very highly.

MENTAL HEALTH BILL

Attention was drawn to the Mental Health Bill currently before parliament. Easy read versions of the Department of Health booklet 'Mental Health Bill - How the Government wants to change the law' were handed out.

A carer asked what mental health had to do with learning disability. There are a lot of references to learning disability in the bill and it was agreed the Forum would look at the possibility of having a workshop in the spring. The decisions from the workshop could be sent to the government to think about.

ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK

Each year the Bradford District Care Trust has to tell the Healthcare Commission if it is meeting all the governments standards of service. Things like;

- giving service users and carers proper information
- whether staff are properly trained

- asking and involving service users and carers about changes to services.

The Forum makes its own assessment and sends this directly to the Healthcare Commission. The Forum's views should reflect service user and carer experiences over the past year.

The Forum would like to check its draft assessment with you before sending it to the Commission. We will put it on our list of things to talk about at a Forum meeting sometime around March 2007.

MEETING CLOSED

The Forum Chair thanked people for their attendance. Lunch was served just after 12 o'clock.

NEWS

The Healthcare Commission is undertaking a 'National Audit' of services for people with a learning disability. This will include Bradford and the Bradford District Care Trust.

'We are going to check healthcare services for people with a learning disability everywhere in England. We will check them to make sure they are being run well. This is called a National Audit.'

'We found that some services for people with a learning disability in England were not being run well. Some people with a learning disability who used these services were treated badly.'

For more information look at the Healthcare Commission website. They have produced an easy read booklet. The easiest way I found it was to do a Google search;

Healthcare Commission National Audit Learning Disability Easy read