



Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board Minutes (Formally the VPN Cabinet)

Date: 21st November 2016 - 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

**Venue: Dymchurch Room, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX**

Who was there?

Joint Chairs:

Daniel Hewitt - Shadow Joint Chair of the VPN Cabinet and Kent LD Partnership Board

Penny Southern - KCC, Joint Chair of the VPN Cabinet

Continued ...

Who was there? (Continued)

Attendees:

Sue Bates - Kent Valuing People Partnership

Peter Boyce - Parent Carer

Linda Chapman - Parent Carer

Steve Chapman - Co-Chair of the 'What I Do' Delivery Group

Trevor Chapman - Parent Carer

Matt Clifton - Skillnet Group, Chief Executive

Joanne Cunningham - KCC, Kent Learning Disability Partnership
Coordinator

Damien Ellis - KCC, Head of In-house Disability Services

Alex Scott - Co-Chair of the 'Keeping Safe' Delivery Group

Sam Sheppard - KCC, Commissioning Manager

Tina Walker - Co-Chair of the 'Good Health' Delivery Group

Paula Watson - Co-Chair of the 'Where I Live' Delivery Group

Nicky Wells - Shadow Joint Chair for the Good Health Group

Apologies

Mick Cronin - Co-Chair of the 'Keeping Safe' Delivery Group

Chris Evans - Parent Carer

Sue Gratton - KCC, Project Manager - Integrated Commissioning for
Learning Disability

Ian Haylock - Shadow Joint Chair of the 'What I Do' Delivery Group

Sam Holman - Joint Chair of the VPN Cabinet and Kent LD Partnership
Board

Jo Jackson - KCC, Executive Support Manager

Michelle Snook - KCC, Commissioning Officer

Malti Varshney - KCC, Co-Chair of the 'Good Health' Delivery Group

Welcome



Penny and Daniel Hewitt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Daniel read out the apologies and everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes and actions from the last Meeting - 11th August 2016

Page 7 - Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Tina and Matt have spoken Sue Bates and Jason Gerlack (from Kent Valuing People Partnership) on how to link the District Partnership Groups (DPGs) with the Forums.



With the Regional Forums and the DPGs not knowing what will be happening in the future no new plans have been made.



What is the timeframe to re-look at this?



When the Regional Forums know their future. Tina is going to a meeting tomorrow, (22nd November,) to discuss this and will feedback to Joanne.

Until there is further news on their future the Forums and DPGs will continue to link as before.

Minutes and actions from the last Meeting - 11th August 2016 (continued)

Page 8 - Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Karen Shaw, (KCC, Public Health) is working on the easy read version of the Learning Disability Needs Assessment. Once this has been done we will be able to discuss with Karen about putting this into easy read.



Karen is off work at the moment and so Joanne has spoken with Malti Varshney, (KCC, Public Health). Malti has said that due to staffing issues the needs assessment has not been completed. **At this stage it is difficult to say the new time lines but Malti will keep us updated on any news.**

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Tina is in talks with Kent Valuing People Partnership (KVPP) on how to gather people's experiences around advocacy. **Tina is still in the process of doing this and still to feedback.**



After our last meeting, Matt wrote to Sholeh Soleimanifar, (KCC, Commissioning Officer) to ask for some agreement on the following:

That the Partnership Board will be updated when the funding level is decided for community advocacy for people with learning disabilities from April 2017.

Sholeh wrote: Yes I can provide an update when the funding for community advocacy for people with learning disabilities is approved from April 2017.

Minutes and actions from the last Meeting - 11th August 2016 (continued)

That the Partnership Board will be told if the rising demand for statutory advocacy means that funding for community advocacy may be cut, or a cut is planned for any other reason.

Sholeh wrote: Yes I can inform the Partnership Board if there are any plans to reduce the community advocacy budget within Kent Advocacy.

That User Innovation Panels stay engaged and one way of doing this would be to ask that Advocacy for All and SEAP send regular reports so that any interested people in the Board can see them.

Sholeh wrote: Each advocacy organisation will organise and manage their own user innovation panels as they are completely independent of KCC.

Joanne told the Board that Sholeh is no longer leading on these advocacy contracts. The new lead is Sarah Challis (KCC, Commissioning Officer).

Sarah has told Joanne that she would uphold the first two points written by Sholeh. Sarah also said that she would write to SEAP to ask that they keep us updated.

Page 10 - Minutes and actions from the last meeting

The Care Minister, (Alistair Burt,) has said that the Department of Health and the Department of Work and Pensions will be working together to reduce the employment gap and that the government has a commitment to halve this. He invited the Forums to measure their progress.



Minutes and actions from the last Meeting - 11th August 2016 (continued)

Matt told the Board that the South East Regional Forum will continue to do this. There is also a new Government green paper called 'Work, health and disability: Improving Lives'.

You can find out more about the green paper 'Work, health and disability: Improving lives' at the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/work-health-and-disability-improving-lives>



There is an easy read version which comes as four booklets

Matt plans to visit the What I Do Delivery Group later this week to talk about the paper.



How many people with a learning disability are employed by KCC?



However, this number comes from employees telling us if they consider themselves disabled. Employees do not have to give us the information if they do not want to and the number covers all disabilities, not just learning disabilities

Information held by KCC showed that in October 2016 there were 318 KCC employees who considered themselves disabled.

Minutes and actions from the last Meeting - 11th August 2016 (continued)

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Penny will bring a map along to a future meeting to show where the Lifespan Pathways teams will be.



Work is still happening on putting together teams. Once we know where people will be based we will put this information on line.

Page 13 - Any other business (Mazars Report)

A link to the Mazars Report was sent out in the minutes from June 2016.



At the last meeting it was said that there was a problem with the link. Joanne has checked and the correct link has been added to the last minutes.

The correct link is: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2015/12/mazars-er-rep.pdf>

Grant for Valuing People Now in Kent

Sam Sheppard gave a presentation on the new grant to continue the work of Valuing People Now.



Having looked at the questionnaire sent out, it looks like you have already put what you want. Is this just a tick box exercise?



No. We have listened to people with a learning disability who have been clear about what they need in Kent. This has given KCC a good understanding of what is needed. However, KCC want to check that we have this right and want you to tell us if we've missed anything.



We struggled with what was being asked on the questionnaire. Could you explain what is wanted?



The grants have to be general to give flexibility and this was our attempt to test that we understood what you have been telling us you want.

On page 4 of the questionnaire there is a box that asks, "Is there anything else which is important to you in how decisions are made in Kent?" If you only fill in this box and send us the questionnaire it would be helpful.



Grant for Valuing People Now in Kent (continued)

Q Should we have more time to look at the outcomes?

A We are happy to give this but then we would not be ready for the 1st April 2017 and there would be a gap in the service. We are happy to do this if this is what the Board agrees.



Q Shouldn't there have been more time for the questionnaires?

A lot of people have not seen them because the District Support Workers do not understand them and are not sharing them.

A The information was sent out two to three weeks ago and this is the first we have heard of the information not being shared.

Sue Bates will follow this up as a matter of urgency.

Q Maybe the questionnaire should have been shown to a couple of people to test it before sending it out?

A We did do this and we communicated with key people. We're really sorry but we are happy to delay this if this is what is needed.



Grant for Valuing People Now in Kent (continued)

The members of the Board agreed:

- Not to delay the questionnaire
- That Penny and Sam would look to see if extra time could be given to return the questionnaire

Sam told the Board that the questionnaire had been sent out to as many people as possible including to all of KCC's providers, speaking up groups, day services and residential homes.



Are you going to have an interview panel?



We would want to get the Board involved but we have to be careful as people cannot be involved in selecting groups if they are also applying.



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Grant for Valuing People Now in Kent (continued)

Q Maybe you could invite people with learning disabilities to the meeting on the 30th November when you meet with organisations?

A This meeting will be more about the process of applying but if that includes people with learning disabilities they are welcome.

Q As a person with a learning disability, I have been involved in interview panels in the past but it has felt very tokenistic. Will this be the same?

A This will not be an interview, we want providers to come and show what they can deliver. However, we do have the flexibility to say to a provider that their application was good but we have further questions we would like to ask.

Q If you are telling organisations on the 13th March 2017 that they are getting the grant, this doesn't leave much time for them to recruit people and be ready for the 1st April 2017 does it?

A The grant will start on the 1st April 2017 but we are not necessarily looking for delivery from this date. We are not handing over a package of support.



GRANT

Grant for Valuing People Now in Kent (continued)

Q Will there be a single grant or will there more than one?

A This will be part of the conversation we want to have on the 30th November 2016.

We have ideas but want to reality check these at the meeting by asking what providers think. We will then make the decision.



Q It has been said that the grant will be between one and three years. Is there the option to stop the grant?

A This will be part of the conversation we want to have on the 30th November 2016.

All grants have an annual review and we are able to give six months' notice if we think it is not working. This would be checked through self-assessment.

Q District Partnership Groups are meeting in the near future. What do we tell people?

A Kent Valuing People Partnership (KVPP) has the current contract and we have always said that the contract will end in March 2017.



Grant for Valuing People Now in Kent (continued)

Q Would you look favourably at a group looking to continue the District Partnership Groups?

A Not necessarily. The important thing is that they meet the outcomes.

Q In the past work happened locally and people did not want to share ideas or work together. Will this happen again?

A We've realised that Kent is so big that this may happen. The important thing is that organisations need to show that they will meet the needs of people with learning disabilities.



Update on the Joint Health and Social Care Self-Assessment Framework (SAF)

Tina told the group that the new version of the SAF is due out in November 2016.

Penny said that some of the work happening around the new 'Joint Learning Disability Commissioning Action Plan' will be fed into the new SAF.



Update on the Joint Health and Social Care Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) (continued)

Paula and Tina gave an update on this work:

Helping people enjoy good health

Work is happening around health checks and screening



Providing accessible information

KCC and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are working to make sure that the Accessible Information Standards are met.



Joined up care

Work is happening around the Alliance agreement.

(The Board was told about this in January when Sue Gratton came and did a role play around integrated commissioning and the Alliance).



Transforming care programme

There is a lot happening around this. This is the work that Jimmy Kerrigan (NHS, Commissioning Manager Learning Disabilities) leads on.



Update on the Joint Health and Social Care Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) (continued)

Where I Live

Paula leads the Your Life, Your Home project. To date, this project has helped 69 people move to independent living



The Shared Lives project continues to be successful. There are now 32 host families and 213 people in the project.

Kent Pathways is another project to help people build up skills so that they are able to live a more independent life.

What I Do

We have been looking at redesigning community day opportunities. There is currently a tender for redesign which can be found on the KCC Business Portal.



0-25 Lifespan pathway

The lifespan pathway will be put into effect from April 2017.



Short term care

Penny will cover this later in the meeting



Update on the Joint Health and Social Care Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) (continued)

Staying safe

Work on safeguarding is currently on track and the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board 'Annual Plan 2016-2017' is in place.



Workforce

The following groups have been looking at their workforce to make sure that the right people are in place:

- Kent County Council (KCC)
- Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT)
- Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT)



Good quality care

Work is happening in Commissioning to make sure services are monitored and reviewed.



What about people with a learning disability who want to be parents? Where do they fit in this plan?



All of it. There is nothing specific but as someone with a learning disability, all of this would apply.

Update on the Delivery Groups and Work Programmes

Good Health Group



At the last meeting the group looked at:

- Mental Health
- Easy read templates for Annual Health Checks

At the next meeting the group plans to look at:

- The LOUD (Learning, Observing, Understanding Disability) group
- An update on the Accessible Information Standard
- Easy read information
- An update on the work of Public Health

Keeping Safe



At the last meeting the group looked at:

- Fire safety
- An update on the Jigsaw Project

At future meetings the group plans to:

- See the scam films made by the NKIAS Taking Action Group
- Link with the What I Do group
- Invite Matthew Scott (the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent) to a future meeting

Update on the Delivery Groups and Work Programmes (continued)

What I Do Group

At the last meeting the group looked at:

- Someone from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) came to the meeting to talk about Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Employment Advisors.
- There was an update from Kent Supported Employment



Steve said that he did not think there was good advice given by the DWP.



Was this fed-back?



No.

This needs to be fed-back. (Joanne to take this back to the What I Do Group)

At the future meetings the group plans to look at:

- News on apprenticeships and employment of people with learning disabilities by KCC
- Working with the Keeping Safe Group
- Adult Education

Update on the Delivery Groups and Work Programmes (continued)

Your Life, Your Home

As said earlier in the meeting, 69 people have moved to independent living. These people range in ages from 20 to 72 years old. Some have lived in residential care for some time.



Some residential homes are changing to become supported homes. This means that people can still live with their friends.

Other homes have closed.



What part of Kent is this happening in?



Right across Kent

Plans for the next Kent Learning Disability Partnership Event

The Board was told that the Delivery Groups and Kent Learning Disability Partnership Events will continue next year.

Meeting rooms have been booked so that information can be shared on dates and venues. The Board was shown a presentation slide which showed these dates and venues.



Plans for the next Kent Learning Disability Partnership Event (continued)

For the past three years the Board has held the Kent LD Partnership awards but it was thought that it was time for a break as fewer nominations were received this year.



The members of the Board were asked what they would like to do or what theme they would like for the next event?

A. Suggestions included:

- Employment and the Government's green paper (Work, health and disability green paper: improving lives)
- Checking the theme for Mencap's Learning Disability week and linking with it
- The outcome of this week's Autumn Statement and the planned cut for the employment and support allowance (ESA).



Who would be in the audience?



Suggestions included:

- The Minister for Work and Pensions. This is currently Kent MP Damian Green.
- Local MP or KCC Members
- Large employers in Kent including SAGA, Port of Dover, NHS, Supermarkets



Plans for the next Kent Learning Disability Partnership Event (continued)



What is the message and who do we need in the audience to ask or talk about it?



Sue to ask the District Partnership Groups to think about this.

We could invite people with a learning disability who have found work successfully.

Ask the What I Do group to think of about what should be included. (Joanne to do this)

Maybe in the afternoon we could do items from the Board

We will also need to include transition. We could invite:

- Couple of 19/20 year olds in college
- Supported internships
- Ask KCC, Human Resources to help us
- East Kent College
- Special schools



We will need to send out some targeted invitations

Matt suggested that there is some information around how successful Lot 3 was

For information: Lot 3 is part of current tender on day opportunities for adults living with disabilities. Lot 3 is a part of the tender that providers can bid for and is around employment support.

Plans for the next meeting

The group were asked what they would like on the agenda for the next meeting.



The Board agreed:

- Lifespan Pathways - Penny to bring the information on where the teams are based
- Transforming Care - Invite Jimmy Kerrigan (NHS, Commissioning Manager Learning Disabilities) to give an update
- Plans for the Kent LD Partnership Event on the 16th June 2017 - Sue was asked if she could put together a small workgroup

Any other business

District Partnership Groups

There has been an issue accessing one of the District Partnership Groups' (DPG) bank accounts. This is because there is only one person available who is listed a signatory.



To get access to the money or information about the account there needs to be two signatories.

Therefore, the members of the Board were asked to vote if they were happy for Joanne to be a signatory to this DPG account and any future DPG account that needed a second signatory.

The Board agreed.



Any other business

Buying goods on the internet - A survey by Coventry Citizens Advice

Joanne told the group that she had received a survey from Coventry Citizens Advice asking people with a disability about their experiences in shopping online.



This survey has not been shared as it is not in easy read and Joanne has been told that there is no easy read version available.

If people are interested in sending their comments or working with a group to share their comments, the surveys can be found using the following links:

If you often shop online, please use the survey for frequent users:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V76TSZV>

If you rarely shop online or don't shop online at all, please use the survey for infrequent users:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7DFH8WK>

Joanne will email out the survey to members of the Board. The closing date is 1st January 2016.

Update on the Short Breaks consultation

Penny gave an update on outcome of the consultation.



The plan was to close Osborne Court and reinvest the money in the other short breaks services. This was supported by Cabinet Members. There will be an investment of £500,000 (five hundred thousand pounds) capital into the buildings across the four remaining sites.

Any other business (continued)

All who use Osborne Court have been contacted and other services have been found.



What will happen to the site?



The site will be handed back to the KCC landlord who will decide its future use.



What is happening with the Walmer Centre?



Newsletters have been sent out. We might see change at the site alongside the plans for a second hub in Dover.

Now we're keeping Meadowside, we could update it to use for people with complex needs. We need to rethink what this could look like as we don't want to isolate people.

Penny could give an update in March.

Next meeting



Monday, 20th March 2017
1.00 pm to 4.00 pm



Maidstone - Venue to be confirmed