

minutes of meeting



**Kensington & Chelsea
Local Involvement Network**

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project title	Kensington & Chelsea Local Involvement Network		
meeting type	Physical Disabilities Sub-Group Public Meeting		
minute no	M-5	Ref	LINK
held at	Essex Unitarian Church 112 Palace Gardens Terrace Notting Hill Gate London, W8 4RT	held on	9 th March 2010

Margaret Cairns-Irven	Chair of Kensington & Chelsea LINK Physical Disabilities Sub-Group
Jeannie Lamb	Kensington & Chelsea LINK member
David Montagu Corry	Kensington & Chelsea LINK member
Patricia Gani	K&C LINK/ADKC
Catherine Larkin	Kensington & Chelsea LINK member
Gaenor Holland - Williams	Kensington & Chelsea LINK member
Jemma Curry	NHS Kensington & Chelsea
Rowena Gosling	Royal Marsden Hospital
Baroness Vitale	Kensington & Chelsea resident
James Archer	RBKC Website Development
Mark Ward	RBKC Self Directed Support Manager
Paula Murphy	LINK Co-ordinator
Simmone Hall	LINK Administrator

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apologies	Paul Rackham, Robin Tuck, Sheila Hicks
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Item	Welcome & Introductions	Action
1.0	Margaret Cairns-Irven welcomed those attending the meeting and asked the group to read and agree to the ground rules for all meetings. All agreed to follow the ground rules.	All
2.0	Minutes of the last meeting January 19th 2010	
	The minutes of the last meeting were approved.	
3.0	Tabling of Personal Budget Questions, Mark Ward, RBKC	
	<p>Mark Ward from the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC) gave an overview of Personal Budgets (PB), covering the assessment process and how payment of a Personal Budget is made.</p> <p>Mark Ward explained that RBKC will be looking to pilot the following two projects in 2010/2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Personal Budget Visa Debit Card</i> The money will be paid directly onto a traditional visa debit card which will work like an ordinary bank card. The project will only apply to new users initially but if it is successful, it will be rolled out to existing users. - <i>“Carers Personal Budget Resource Allocation System (RAS)”</i> In order to be able to calculate the personal budget a Carer might get, RBKC will use a tool known as the Carers ‘RAS’ to determine their level of funding for their assessed needs. The Carers RAS will be piloted in RBKC in 2010/11. <p>Finally, Mark explained the fundamental reason of having a Personal Budget is for individuals to consider how best their support needs can be met to help them to achieve their goals.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Q1. If someone is in receipt of a personal budget, is it deducted from benefits? / should it count as income?</p>	

Answer:

Personal budgets are not a benefit exactly, but an allocation of money to help address the identified needs of an individual. No other benefit is impacted by a PB.

Q2. How does Personal Budget work if someone is for example, looking to re-imburse a neighbour for help received? Can they be paid in cash?

Answer:

Mark Ward – A one off cash payment can be made from the Personal Budget card into the bank account of the individual to receive the payment - instead of a 'cash in hand' payment. If the situation becomes a regular occurrence then a permanent arrangement will be needed.

Q3. How is a Personal Budget funded?

Answer:

Mark Ward – The funding comes from Adult Social Care. Once individuals are allocated money through the assessment process, they are able to make their own decisions around how the care that they need will be delivered, offering more choice and control on the services they receive. A Personal Budget can be either in the form of traditional services provided by the Council or in a cash payment in lieu of Council services.

Q4. Is there a threshold for entitlement to a PB and if so how much?

Answer:

Mark Ward – An individual must meet the Council's criteria for services. A Personal Budget is an allocation of money that can be used to help provide services that help address an individual's assessed needs. Following the consultation late last year, individuals with more than £25,000 in savings will be required to contribute towards the cost of their social care services. This is a separate policy decision and not related to the Personal Budgets process.

Q5. Individuals who have £25,000 or more in savings, how much income would they need to earning?

Answer:

Mark Ward – I am not an expert on financial policy but as far as I am aware it is £25,000 in savings. If the individual has this amount or more, then the borough will assess how much is fair and reasonable for those individuals to contribute to their care.

Q6. If for example occupational therapy enables an individual to have a free piece of equipment, does that money go into the individual budget and then get taken out of it?

Answer:

Mark Ward – The amount does not go into a personal budget at the moment. But RBKC are trying to streamline the services so that the money could become part of a personal budget in the future and individuals can still receive the equipment for a one off fee.

Comments:

A member of the group commented that the Personal Budget debit card does not give the same protection as a credit card agreement when buying goods over the internet.

Answer:

Mark Ward – My understanding of the agreement set up with the RBS bank is that it will be a Visa card which will be pre-loaded with money. It carries the same security and rights as a credit card with the exception that individuals can only spend the amount that is on the card.

Comments:

A member of the group commented that it is important to carry out CRB checks on Carers.

Answer:

Mark Ward – Agrees. It is recommended that all employers of Carers carryout CRB checks but employers can exercise their choice in this matter.

Q7. Are there any difficulties in a private employer at this time getting a CRB check?

Answer:

Mark Ward – No, depending on the amount of people applying for CRB checks there may be a delay in the process and this may impact on the time taken to recruit a carer.

Q8. Is there any scope for people who work to get Personal Budget?

Answer:

Mark Ward – The Personal Budget assessment is open to

	<p>an individual whether they are employed or not. A Personal Budget is the amount RBKC feel you need to pay for your support based on your individual situation.</p> <p>Q8. Is there a minimum charge that is paid to individuals for certain types of work carried out, for example help from a neighbour with ‘running an errand’ or shopping?</p> <p>Answer: Mark Ward – If it is a gratitude which was not planned for, the Personal Budget can be used to make a one-off payment. If becomes a regular occurrence, then it may be best to setup a formal arrangement.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>RBKC Adult People First Website Presentation: James Archer, RBKC Website Development team</p>	
	<p>James Archer gave a presentation and a demonstration of a new website by RBKC, designed for users of Social Care services.</p> <p>The website pulls together the different types of information available on social care services and makes them easy to find.</p> <p>It also encourages individual independence and information sharing. The website will go live once all the information is gathered.</p> <p>James Archer explained that RBKC is working with partner organisations in the borough and in addition, is looking for suggestions from local residents to help to create user friendly website content.</p> <p>Individuals are asked to look at the scenarios on the website at http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/peoplefirst.aspx and feed back any suggestions by email to james.archer@rbkc.gov.uk or by telephone to K&C LINK staff on 020 8968 7049. K&C LINK staff can also help with access to the internet; please telephone the office to arrange assistance.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Q. Is there any proposal for advocacy services?</p> <p>Answer: James Archer - RBKC has a list of Advocacy Services for Kensington & Chelsea. This information will be obtained and placed in an appropriate area of the website.</p>	

	<p>Q. Is the material also available in paper form?</p> <p>Answer: James Archer - Some of the information from the new website is available at local libraries in the borough in paper form. RBKC welcome suggestions for a full leaflet to be put together.</p> <p><u>Suggestions from the group on information to be put on the new website.</u></p> <p>The group suggested that information around the following in put on the new website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) for You - Expert Patient Programme - K&C LINK <p>The group felt the picture representing sensory impairment should be changed as it was not clear and was a 'medical' approach. The international system for a hearing loop was recommended.</p> <p>The group also suggested user testing for a variety of disability related requirements and ensuring the site was DDA and WCAG compliant.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Access to GPs Proposal: Discussion and agreed Action</p>	
	<p>The Sub-group Chair, Margaret Cairns – Irven introduced her research study proposal on 'Access to GP Services' and gave the background of the study.</p> <p>The aim of the research is to assess the level of patient satisfaction with access to and the services provided by their GP's.</p> <p>The group discussed aspects of the research project plan and what else could be added to the research.</p> <p>The group agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To go ahead with the project with revisions including further enquiries on other work carried out to date in this area e.g. ADKC and BME Health Forum. - All agreed on the patient questionnaire and the use of 'mystery shopping' once the questionnaire findings have been reviewed. - All agreed to linking the research to the DoH consultation 	<p>Margaret / Wendy</p>

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	<p>Going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To obtain assistance from the Resident Reviewers and from members of the group in carrying out questionnaires and the agreed research.- The GP and Mystery shopping questionnaires are to be reviewed and the updated project proposal will be taken to the next meeting for agreement.	Margaret/Wendy
6.0	Date and venue of next meeting	
	<p>Date: Thursday 6th May Time: 3pm -5pm Location: United Reform Church Allen Street, off High St, Kensington London, W8 6BL</p>	