



Executive Partnership Board Report

Title: Carers Partnership Board Report
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Carers Partnership Board Update – May 2012

The Carers Partnership Board met on 14 March 2012, this report is an update of key work of the group.

Carers Breaks

A joint proposal from NHS Bucks and BCC has been agreed to develop a joint short breaks scheme with funding from both organisation pooled. Members of the Partnership Board welcomed the good news and were keen to be involved in the development of the project. Zita Calkin – BCC would be leading this work and will provide regular feedback to the board.

The scheme will provide carers with flexibility and range of personalised services supported by a carer's brokerage system. The board highlighted the need for the process to be timely and not too arbitrary for carers. A pathway would be agreed highlighted routes to access the funding,

Priorities

In January the Partnership Board felt unable to complete the priorities template given timescales, the Partnership Board spent the March meeting discussing priorities from a carer's stakeholder event held by Carers Bucks. The key areas highlighted by carers were then formulated into priorities for the Board.

Board and Membership

The Board is chaired by a Carer – Ian Cormack and is attended by a number of Carers. The Group is looking to seek wider carer's representation covering all the care groups. This work will be managed by SUCO. At present an election for positions is not viable; this is something the group will work towards.

Expenses

The Partnership has made a commitment that no carers should be out of pocket as a result of their attendance at the Board. Carers are encouraged to complete expense forms. It has been agreed that expense forms will be circulated with future agenda packs for the board.

Advocacy

The group were provided with a verbal update on the recent changes to local Direct Payments and Advocacy Services- with POhWER taking on IMCA, IMHA, Individual Case Advocacy and the Direct Payments Support Service. The new provider has developed a number of on line fact sheets and tools which will be shared with SUCO. BCC is working with both the outgoing providers and new provider to ensure a safe transition. Existing services have been extended to ensure that clients receiving advocacy support receive continuity of provision.

Provider Market

The Partnership Board noted that it respected the outcome of tendering exercises but BCC needed to look more widely at the impact of a number of outcomes of procurements exercises that were impacting service users and carers and having a devastating impact on local providers. The Partnership Board would like to hold a session with key decision makers later in the year to look at impacts of recent decisions.

Bucks Safe-Guarding Board

Richard Brook confirmed as Carers Representative to the Board.

Prevention Board

Stephen Archibald confirmed as representative to the Board

SUCO Update

Ian Cormack provided an update.