



Executive Partnership Board

Report

Title: Physical and Sensory Disability Partnership Board (PSDB) Update for the 4th quarter of 2011 - 2012

Date: 21 May 2012

Author: Christopher Reid

Contact officer: cjreid@buckscc.gov.uk

Report of the PSDB meeting held on 26 January 2012

Key points:

1. Priorities of the PSDB for 2012/2013

Discussion was held on the 2012/2013 work priorities for the board which would be need to be agreed at the Executive Partnership Board. The priorities would then form the basis of the work plan of which the board would be responsible for its delivery. Members were asked to consider what the priorities should be and bring these for discussion and finalisation at the board meeting in March.

2. National Benefits Update

Andrew Clark from BuDS reported that the Welfare Reform Bill was currently in the House of Lords and changes to the proposals were still being made. Andrew shared the analysis that BuDS had done in looking at the number of claimants and the types of benefits they were receiving and what impact of the Welfare Reforms to these benefits are likely to be. Some assumptions are:

- 660 people of working age in Bucks are currently receiving DLA at the higher rate and will lose all or part of their benefit. Of the 490 people of working age receiving DLA at the lower rate, 210 people will lose their Motability car or scooter. Most of the 490 people losing lower-rate DLA would be those with a sensory or learning disability or a mental health issue.
- Indirect consequences are about 7000 disabled people being affected by loss of benefit.
- Other knock on effects are the pressures on carers and family members significantly increasing as a result of people losing their independence as a result of benefit loss or reduction.

3. Service User Reference Group and ULO update

Debi Game, development worker from the User Led Organisation (ULO) reported that she was in the process of visiting all the partnership boards to introduce herself and it has become clear that the first priority of the ULO is to look at finding users and carer representation on all the Partnership Boards.

Other activities undertaken were:

- A mapping and gapping exercise on the current membership of the Boards
- The ULO Shadow Board and SDS reference group are meeting on 30 January to discuss work plans and longer term strategies

4. Update on the ImPACT Programme

Deene Barratt, ImPACT programme manager, took members through a short powerpoint presentation and highlighted the following key points;

- The biggest problem area known, in terms of accessing care urgently is the frail elderly who account for 80% of the money spent on urgent care.
- Workstreams planned include the development of Adult Community Health Teams which have now been integrated as part of Buckinghamshire Health Care Trust. District Nurses, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists are now working as integrated teams. They are set up in locality based teams which match the GP localities. The service is still at the bedding down stage but the benefits are starting to be seen. 24/7 response to urgent care has been provided since September. There is a one hour response team and different levels of response depending on the acute need.
- There is much closer working between the hospitals and the community teams. Community teams are now part of the ward round enabling care plans to be put in place for those who would benefit from being discharged from hospital sooner.
- The programme is also trying to prevent people from going into hospital in the first place. Work is taking place with GPs to identify patients who are at risk sooner rather than later. Social care teams are also based in localities and work is being done to align these with GP localities.

Report of the PSDB meeting held on 29 March 2012

Key points:

1. Bucks Connect

Liz Sheppard, Communications and Projects Officer, reported on the work in developing the new online directory called Bucks Connect. It encompasses useful information and contact details concerning care and support services; and community group activities. It has been designed in a way to make it easier for people and organisations to upload their information and access other information. The website will go live during mid-April 2012.

2. Wycombe District Council's review of services to people with Disabilities

Brian Pollock, councillor for Wycombe District Council, explained that the Council had set up a task and finish group to look at how the Council how dealing with people with disabilities through its services. Advice was being sought by the board on the areas of questioning and engagement approaches with disabled people to get their views. A workshop is planned for May 2012. The board agreed to recommend the questions to be considered by the Council for their review and to assist with publicising the workshop within their organisations and service users.

3. Update on the 2012 Paralympics

Vanessa King, programme manager, gave a presentation on the Paralympics preparations for Buckinghamshire and the details about the

events that were taking place. BuDS have been consulted on the preparations to ensure that the events are going to be accessible for disabled people. BuDS has raised the need for an accessible pathway from Stoke Mandeville railway station to the stadium as it falls short of being accessible. Vanessa agreed to provide a support plan on the future legacy of the Olympics and Paralympics to the board once it becomes available.

4. Priorities of the PSDPB for 2012/2013

The chair presented the latest version of the board priorities and it was agreed to take it to the Executive Partnership Board for approval.

5. National Benefits update

Andrew gave a further update on the latest developments around the Welfare Reform bill highlighting that there are several consultations underway by the Department of Work and Pensions on various regulations concerning the new personal independence payment that will replace DLA. There is also a consultation by the Disability Alliance on the effects on the latest iteration of the eligibility criteria for employment and support.