



PDUG Minutes of 25/08/06

In Attendance

Norma Naylor
Steve Patis
Zoë Crutchley
Julia Pearson
Ian Topp
Lesley James
Jim O'Rourke
Bill Broadribb
Gill Beswick

Apologies

Brian Morgan
Louise Shaw
Susan Duttaroy
Roger Hall

1. Meeting Started Approx 1400.

Apologies A.O.B. Web Site. Hiding Email addresses. Active Ageing Conference.

2. Introductions.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from 25/07/06

Minutes accepted.

4. Actions carried forward.

Ian to Request copy of tender Document for User Involvement

Lesley James had sent Ian a copy of the tender for User Involvement. If any one wished a copy they can contact Ian.

Ian to feed back to group re Charging Policy for care.

Covered by item 5

Operating Procedure to Update.

Ian stated that he had looked at the operating procedure.

Observations to incorporate into Website.

Covered under AOB

5. NCC reply to PDUG letter regarding charging policy/eligibility criteria

Concerns had been raised by the PDUG related to the eligibility criteria and how this would be applied objectively, consistently and equitably to ensure the outcome measures were valid. Experience in the past had shown different individuals doing assessments resulting in different outcomes. The reply from Lyn Meaden, Service Improvement Manager NCC, stated that all staff involved with applying the criteria would receive additional guidance on determining levels of need.

The other concerns of the PDUG related to the charging policy. The view of the PDUG was that the processes involved in policing this system were a waste of precious resource. The reply from Lyn Meaden stated that revenue figures for the charging policy would be made available for the scrutiny committee on the 11th September.

Ian was confused and concerned about what appeared to be number of different tools trying to do the same job, assessing people's needs

I.e. single assessment process tool called the Northampton Overview Assessment Tool, the charging policy tool and finally a tool for assessing people's eligibility for services.

Lesley stated that the Northampton Overview Assessment Tool (NOAT) is an assessment tool. The eligibility measure, which was being applied by social services, was the eligibility criteria. This was not an assessment tool per say, it was to determine who was entitled to services and all services should have eligibility criteria.



Lesley went on to explain that the Northampton Overview Assessment Tool was to help prevent the same information having to be given over and over again by individuals needing care.

The PDUG agreed to maintain the stance that charging for personal care was a minefield and a bureaucratic waste of precious resource. Monitoring of the consistent application of the eligibility criteria would continue to be a concern for all.

ACTION Ian to obtain revenue figures

Ian

6. PDUG reply to abolition of Patient and Public Involvement forum's

The commission for Patient and Public involvement was due to be abolished and replaced by LINKs (Local Involvement Networks.) LINKs will provide flexible ways for individuals, organisations and communities to engage with health and social care organisations. They will build on the best work of patient forums creating a strengthened system of user involvement and will promote public accountability in health and social care through open and transparent communication with commissioners and providers. The consultation document from the D.O.H contained questions asking how the transfer of PPI's to LINKs etc should occur. Ian was requested to copy the document to Users so they could comment.

Lesley explained that at the present time PCT's Social Services and Hospitals were both providers and commissioners of services. The Government is saying they wish to stop this, as there is a conflict of interests. These LINKs will hopefully provide a robust system where there is forum that will provide true consultation to feed into the commissioning process. A debate took place over whether services should be designed around resources available or based on scientific analysis of need.

ACTION Dept of Health Document to copy to members present.

Ian

7. AOB.

Web site.

Steve explained that the previous observations relating to the website had not yet been incorporated. A copy of a potential disclaimer for the web site was handed round for comment. Zoë and Steve explained that the site would not be registered with the search engines until the Group had Okayed the content. Steve also pointed out that people's Email addresses appeared when being sent information such as minutes and agendas.

ACTION . Ian to look into hiding Email addresses.

Ian

ACTION. Users to send comments to Zoë and Steve regarding website.

Users

Active Ageing Conference.

The Group was informed that an active aging conference was taking part on the 31st October at the Kings Park Conference Centre. It was an opportunity to find out about new initiatives and have your say about the support and services in Northampton. Contact Sue Ousley on 01604 236284 for more information.

Next PDUG meeting at the Doddridge Centre.

Fri. 29th Sept

13.30 tea/coffee 14.00 start

Finish 16.30 late