



PDUG Minutes of 29/09/06

In Attendance

Jim O'Rourke
Steve Patis
Zoë Crutchley
Margaret Stirmeay

Roger Hall

Ian Topp

Apologies

Julia Pearson
Louise Shaw
Bill Broadribb

Peter Rayner
Brian Morgan
Gill Beswick

1. Meeting Started Approx 1400.

Apologies
A.O.B. Web Site.

2. Introductions. Margaret informed the group that she was currently working for the Physical Disability Team, which was in the process of being disbanded. The reason Margaret was attending the group today was to talk about her new position. Ian apologised for the small number of Users present but stated that the minutes did go out to approximately 60 Users.

3. Acceptance of Minutes. Minutes of 29/09/06 accepted.

4. Actions carried forward

Eligibility and charging criteria figures

Ian highlighted the concerns the PDUG had regarding the eligibility and charging criteria for community care services. These related mainly to the eligibility criteria being applied objectively and the view that charging for personal care was a minefield and a bureaucratic waste of precious resource. A list of figures was handed out to the members present which had been obtained from NCC website.

Table 1 highlighted the predicted increasing pressure on services

Table 1 of % predicted growth in population

	% 2006/7	% 2007/8	% 2008/9	% 2009/10	% 2010/11
Total Population Growth	1.05	2.28	3.57	4.83	6.09
Growth Older People Growth	2.57	5.49	8.82	12.19	16.78
Younger Adults Physical Disability Growth	2.27	5.40	8.85	12.22	15.52
Learning Disability Growth	1.29	2.73	4.22	5.66	7.06
Mental Health Growth	1.11	2.39	3.72	5.03	6.30

Table 2 contained figures, which gave some background on the number of users of non-residential services.



Table 2 Figures for Users' of non-residential Community Care Services

	Number of Users
Users that have been financially assessed	3350
Average weekly service cost to NCC	£145
Number of Users contributing to their care	1350
Number of Users not reporting receipt of disability benefit	1117
Number of Users actually not in receipt of disability benefit	435
Average cost to User's who contribute per week	£30
Council annual income from charges obtained from Users	£2,100,000

The observations that were apparent from the figures were that some users were not declaring benefits for whatever reason; some users of services were not receiving benefits when in fact the nature of the service they were receiving dictated that they were entitled to benefits.

Table 3 showed the predicted costs in implementing the new charging policy, the predicted savings due to less people being eligible and the increased revenue due to the change in the charging policy.

Table 3: Financial Impact of Changing Eligibility Criteria and Charging Policy

	2006-07 £000s	2007-08 £000s	2008-09 £000s	2009-10 £000s
Transitional care costs	387	253	0	0
Net effect of change to eligibility criteria	-2,093	-4,277	-4,960	-4,960
Additional income – from change to charging policy	-400	-900	-900	-900
Total impact of changing both policies	-2,493	-5,177	-5,860	-5,860

No changes to care arrangements would be instigated without a comprehensive assessment/reassessment by an experienced professional. The Care Audit Team undertakes approximately 100 reassessments a week. The Care Audit team has been established to take a consistent countywide approach.

A copy of the full document which was presented to cabinet can be viewed on the NCC website.



5. Disability Equality Scheme.

Margaret explained that a duty had been placed on all public service bodies, which comes into effect on December 4th. One of these duties is called the disability equality duty and is based on the DDA. The phrase that keeps coming up and what is driving the scheme is contained in the phrase of “Nothing about us without us” and is based upon the social model of disability. It was explained how disability was being defined and how that scheme may provide positive discrimination to ensure disabled people are treated equitably. Alongside the written scheme there has to be an action plan. Most importantly is involvement and consultation with Users backed up by evidence. It was explained that this was law and the old problem of Users being consulted but actions or outcomes not reflecting this was no longer possible. A member of the group stated that Physical Disability service Users had been properly consulted in the past and what was required now was an action plan to show how and when the National Services Framework for long-term conditions and the agreed model for physical disability services within the county would be implemented.

Margaret explained that she would be consulting with individuals and would send out a flier with her contact address on.

ACTION Flier details to be included in newsletter and minutes **Ian**

6. Relationship between PDUG and Strategic Nurse Manager Focus Groups.

Ian explained that the above item had been placed on the agenda to clarify the point that individuals should state if they were representing themselves at the Focus Groups or the PDUG. If they were representing the PDUG they must ensure they work towards the agreed County Wide Physical Disability strategy circa 2000.

7. AOB Website

Steve showed the group how to navigate around the website and explained the reasoning behind the website index and why the picture from the operating procedure had been removed to help the download. It was explained that the website was being put together to ensure it would adhere to the guidelines for accessibility. There was a debate around whether the graph showing the resources required to run the PDUG should be shown on the website. Ian stated that it was not only the Governments wish but also the groups to have services displayed transparently to show best value and the PDUG should abide by this and set the example. Steve explained how eventually there would hopefully be a search facility, how to speed up the site and the disclaimer. Links to other sites were a possibility with a proviso that permission was obtained as a matter of courtesy. It was agreed that the site should not be signed off as complete until it was finished.

ACTION Comments to feed back to Steve on Website **All**

**Next PDUG meeting at the Doddridge Centre.
Fri. 27th Oct**

13.30 tea/coffee 14.00 start



Finish 16.30 late