

NORTHERN ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY FORUM (NABIF)

Minutes of the meeting held at Hunters Moor Regional Neurological Rehabilitation Centre on Friday 24th March 2006

In attendance

Mike Barnes (Chairman), Barbara Chandler, Des O'Meara, Paul Saxon, Boda Gallon, Ella Cornforth, Karen Pratt, Margaret Ayton, Debbie Liddle, Simon Easton, Alistair Berry, Vicki Gilman, Ruth Cooper, Helen Hastie, Mark Tempest, Sheila Bothwell, Heather Batey, Steven McAleese, Alex Green, Caroline Betham, Anne Hunter, Neil Brownlee, Margaret Bramley, John Walker, James Cox, John Davis, Jim Williams, Anne Brown, Fran Mayes, Steven Tyrer.

1. Apologises for absence

Alistair White, Julia Atherton, Alison Langthorne, Philipa Griffiths, Janice Thompson, Helen Atkin, Annie Gent, Deborah Jackson and Anne Harrison.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Approved. No matters arising.

3. Information directory

Fran Mayes presented a directory prepared from responses to the pro-forma sent out after the last meeting.

Those who have not joined the directory should please contact Fran Mayes for a pro-forma at fran.mayes@irwinmitchell.com.

Fran kindly agreed to update the directory periodically. It was agreed a copy of the database should be sent to UKABIF, who maintain a central register.

To action: FM

4. Marketing

Paul Saxon, Vicki Gilman and Anne Hunter reported back from the meeting of the "marketing sub-group". The following were discussed and agreed:

- i). NABIF required its own headed notepaper, the design of which was discussed. The correspondence address would be Hunters Moor Hospital and, following the move, Walkergate.
- ii). Leaflets will be designed for distribution through members of NABIF to those who may be interested in joining NABIF or who may wish to access NABIF for information. It was agreed the design of the leaflets would be left to the marketing sub-group and sponsorship will be obtained to cover the cost.

- iii). It was agreed that NABIF should have a website. The choice of website designer was discussed, with there being a preference to use the services of someone who has suffered ABI or other injuries. Any recommendations please to Paul Saxon by 31.5.06 at pauls@b-h-p.com.

It was agreed the choice of designer and content of the website would be left to the marketing sub-group.

Funding will be required. Des O'Meara suggested there might be grants available through National Lottery funding. Paul Saxon suggested there might be grants available through local business organisations. In addition it is likely that sponsorship will be available if required.

To action: PS/VG/AH

Would those interested in providing sponsorship please contact Paul Saxon at pauls@b-h-p.com.

5. Proposed topics for discussion

There was a wide ranging discussion, which included consideration of the aims, objectives and role of NABIF. It was agreed the two key roles were:

- i). Lobbying.
- ii). Dissemination of information and networking.

Lobbying

Matters discussed included the reorganisation of the primary care trusts, the National Service Framework (NSF), the Regional Neurosciences Review and Community Care White Paper.

Steven Tyrer explained that UKABIF are co-ordinating a national response to the NSF review, but realistically it is too late for NABIF to have an input into this process. It was agreed that NABIF should, in any event, concentrate on lobbying at a regional level.

Margaret Ayton provided an update on the current Regional Neurosciences Review and proposals for implementation of the NSF. The current review should be completed in July and input from NABIF would be welcomed and would be particularly valuable in identifying the network of services available in the region for ABI.

Margaret Ayton kindly agreed to make a short presentation at the next meeting. Following that presentation there will be an opportunity for discussion and for NABIF to select a group of representatives who could then feed back into the review process.

To action: PS

Dissemination of information and networking

In terms of dissemination of information and networking it was agreed that it would be helpful for all members to give a brief presentation (5 – 10 minutes) outlining their services and/or areas of interest. The following presentations were offered:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>People giving presentation</u>
Case Management	John Walker/Ella Cornforth
Home based rehabilitation	REACH
Community rehabilitation	Boda Gallon
Services in North Cumbria	Croftlands
Community rehabilitation – OT Services	Simon Easton
Walkergate	Mike Barnes
Regional Neuropsychiatric Services	Alex Goody
Solicitors group	TBA
Health Service Structure	Margaret Ayton
Vocational rehabilitation	Alistair Berry
CBIT update	Ruth Cooper
Overseas brain injury	Barbara Chandler
Neurosurgical review	NORSCOR

To action: JW

6. Annual conference

It was agreed that NABIF should aim to have an annual conference or training day. It was agreed to aim for a half day conference in brain awareness week in Spring 2007. Topic TBA.

To action: steering group

7. Constitution and steering committee

Following the last meeting Des O'Meara sent out a copy of the UKABIF constitution for consideration.

It was agreed that the current steering committee of Mike Barnes, Des O'Meara, Paul Saxon, John Walker and Helen Hastie would continue.

Their current objectives are to continue to develop NABIF and to prepare a constitution for agreement by the members.

To action: steering group

8. Presentations

There were brief presentations as follows:

- i). Steven McAleese (standing in for Alistair White) outlining the services provided by Headway and the aspirations for Headway in the North East Region.
- ii). Ruth Cooper of CBITUK, outlining in particular the Child and Family Support policy.
- iii). Helen Hastie, Clinical Nurse Specialist in adult traumatic head injury at Newcastle General Hospital, explaining her role and the treatment pathway from admission to discharge and post-discharge follow up.
- iv). James Cox, outlining current services in North Cumbria, the current model for provision of services and proposals for the future. A Cumbria Network Group is being created and those interested should please contact James Cox at James.A.Cox@ncumbria.nhs.uk.

9. Any other business

None (it being after 2pm).

10. Date and time of the next meeting.

Friday 2nd June 2006, 12 noon – 2pm at Hunters Moor Hospital.