

**Northern Acquired Brain Injury Forum (NABIF)**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held at St James Parish Church Centre, Carlisle on**  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

In Attendance

Professor Mike Barnes (Chairman), Paul Saxon, Boda Gallon, Alastair White, Chris Holly, Julie Roberts, Jenny Locke, Louise Plowright, Jan Waddington, Diane Proctor, Julie Young, Dee Moore, Judith Morrison, Peter Stringer, Wendy Bell, Helen Hastie, Julia Atherton, Kelly Mowbray, Anne Hunter, Vicki Gilman, Steven McAleese, Catherine Symington, Des O'Meara, Saleem Malik, Angela Whitehead, Heather Batey, Laura Noble, Barrie Richardson, Barbara Clerk, Deborah Jackson and Paul Flynn.

Many thanks to Dr Vincent Foxworthy for his excellent presentation on A & E Services in Cumberland and their role in managing brain injuries.

1. Apologies for Absence

Stephen Tyrer, Ella Cornforth, Simon Easton, Helen Atkin, Debbie Edwards, Viv Watson, Barbara Chandler, Alister Berry, Ben Townsend, Mark Tempest.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes approved.

3. ABI Services in Cumbria

Jenny Locke provided an update on the development of an ABI service in Cumbria.

Jenny and her colleagues have been successful in their proposal to Commissioners for the creation of an ABI service in Cumbria.

The underlying economic rationale was that the creation of a local service would more cost effectively meet the needs of people in Cumbria, in particular the small number of people who are being sent out of the region for expensive, specialist, rehabilitation.

However, because of pressure on funding the proposed team has been scaled down, at least for this year, with the recruitment of a smaller team. In particular the posts that have been put on hold are:- Band 6 Occupational Therapist, Family and carers counsellor, Band 7 Clinical Psychologist and psychology assistants. The second Case Manager post has been downgraded to a Band 6.

Emphasis in the next 12 months will be upon providing services to allow the people in out of area placements to return to North Cumbria. The aim is to support these people in their own homes or to provide supported living

accommodation (of which there is very limited supply at the moment in the region).

Disappointment was expressed by many at the meeting that the proposed ABI team have been cut back in this way. In particular, because of the focus on developing and providing services to those in out of area placements, there will be no additional rehabilitation service to people with ABI who are currently resident in North Cumbria, at least for the next 12 months.

It was agreed that Professor Barnes, on behalf of NABIF, would write a letter to the appropriate PCT expressing concern at the delay in the provision of such important services to the North Cumbria Region.

There was further discussion confirming that the common experience of those present was that the NSF was not being applied to neurological conditions.

#### 4. Matters arising

- i). Website: No new developments. The role of the website in the service mapping project is under discussion.
- ii). CBIT "*Memory Day*" – reminder from Julie Young of the memory day on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Centre For Life, Newcastle, launching their Family Project in the North East.

#### 5. Service mapping

Steven McAleese provided us with an update on behalf of the service mapping group:

- i). The excel spreadsheets are now up to date. Adult services appear quite complete, but information on children's services is sparse.
- ii). The database has been forwarded to CBIT and Paediatric Professionals for further input.
- iii). The database has been sent to social workers working with adults in County Durham for comments.
- iv). Once feedback is received (from the above) the contacts and details will need to be checked and permission obtained for inclusion on the list. This will be done by telephone.
- v). The aim is for the information in the database to be made publicly available through a website. There are a number of issues to be dealt with regarding:
  - Design of the website, having particular regard of the needs of people with brain injuries, visual impairment, etc;

- Resources to create and maintain the website (KABIF will be giving a presentation at the next UKABIF meeting, which may be of assistance. They estimate a resource of 2 hours per month).
- vi). The next stage in the process of service mapping will be the proposed “road show” to explore user and carer experience of services locally.

Helen Atkin has raised the issue whether we should enshrine the involvement of service users within the constitution of NABIF to ensure that what we are doing is relevant to them. There was a discussion about this and also the possibility of reimbursing individuals who are providing their help on a voluntary basis and are incurring expenses, such as travel expenses.

It was agreed in principle we should reimburse expenses, but at present NABIF does not have the funds to do that. The steering committee will consider this at its next meeting.

#### 6. Training Day

Helen Hastie provided an update. The proposed training day in November is to be postponed, hopefully to a date in January or February.

The proposed format for the next meeting is to have key presentations, but with more opportunity for networking and for NABIF members to provide stands and information about their services.

The likely venue is Walkergate Park.

#### 7. Protocol for Lawyers/Statutory Services

No progress to report.

#### 8. UKABIF

The UKABIF AGM will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 in London. NABIF is making a contribution, with a brief presentation on setting up an ABIF.

#### 9. Any other business

Introductions from new “members” of NABIF:

- i). Saleem Malik from Carewatch, who provide residential care services in the North East and are looking to develop expertise in the area of ABI.
- ii). Laura Noble and others from the Glenmore Trust, a not for profit organisation working with adults with a learning disability in North Cumbria. Their services include residential care homes, supported tenancies, community support, respite care/short term breaks and day services.

- iii). Chris Holly: Chris has been appointed as Headway UK Campaigns Manager. She is based in London and her objective is to improve services for brain injury survivors by campaigning for implementation of the NSF in local areas. Her strategy is to travel around the country, meeting with Regional Co-ordinators of Headway, Groups and Branches to gather and provide information; to prepare a campaigning pack to help the Groups and Branches campaign in their own areas; to identify key players in local areas in the NHS, voluntary sector and the political arena; formulate campaigns in local areas.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 12 noon – 2pm at Walkergate Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne.