

Northern Acquired Brain Injury Forum

Minutes of Meeting held on 03.10.2008 at St James Parish Church Centre, St James Road, Carlisle

In Attendance

Professor Mike Barnes, Paul Saxon, Helen Hastie, Julia Atherton, Simon Richell, Des O'Meara, Andrew McDonald, Helen Brunton, John Davis, Nick Gutteridge, Debra Jackson, Sarah Fryer, Helen McConville, Naveem Prabhakanam, Sharon Goddard, Roy Jones, Ella Cornforth, Philip Parkinson, Catherine Symington, Paul Brown, Lindsey Dobson, Carol Henderson, Andrew Kirkpatrick, Scott Squire, Ben Townsend, Stephen McAlleese.

Helen McConville and Sarah Fryer

Helen and Sarah provided an update with regard to the Cumbria Community Brain Injury Service.

The service has now been going in one form or another since 1998. Funding was initially through the Lancaster Community Trust and the Morecombe Bay PCT. It started as a multi-professional service, but with a core rehabilitation directorate.

Since it began the service has survived a multitude of budget cuts and reorganisations. There is currently commitment from three PCT's to commission the service. It is a testament to the quality of the service provided, and the efforts of all concerned, that the service has survived the huge changes that have taken place in North Lancashire and Cumbria over the last year or two.

The most recent change is that the team is now hosted within the Cumbria Partnership Trust, a Mental Health Trust. It is based in Penrith, with satellite offices at Kendal and Workington.

The team are currently recruiting, but when recruitment is complete there should be:

Team Leader (being advertised).

Clinical Lead.

Administrator/Receptionist.

3 full time OTs.

2-3 Case Managers (one with a special interest in nursing).

3 Rehabilitation Assistants.

2 Speech and Language Therapists.

2 Clinical Neuropsychologists (Sarah Fryer has recently joined and currently recruiting one other).
Dietician.

The aim of the service is to provide goals based rehabilitation. Lifestyle goals include social integration, getting back to work and family roles (such as parenting and maintaining relationships).

So far the Case Management Role has focused on getting back people who are currently being funded for support and care provided out of the area. One of the main goals of the service is to ensure that services are provided within Cumbria, which is beneficial to clients and their families, and cost effective from the point of view of the PCTs.

Because the service is now hosted within a Mental Health Trust, there is a need to identify and link in with the other services available within the Trust.

A more long-term aim is to identify gaps in the services, for example in relation to epilepsy and other neurological conditions. It is also hoped to provide training to other service providers and conduct research.

Scott Squire of Glenmore Trust asked about services available for getting people back to work. The Glenmore Trust predominately supports individuals with learning difficulties and mental health problems, but they do experience difficulties accessing vocational rehabilitation services.

Helen indicated that at the moment there are limited services available in the Cumbria Area. However, amongst their client group approximately 80% of those who have set getting back to work as a goal have achieved it so far.

Headway North Cumbria

Debra Jackson and Stephen McAleese provided information about the services available through Headway North Cumbria.

The North Cumbria Group started with a monthly support group, which still meets. However, they now organise outings, which the group is able to fund because of the success they have had in fund raising, particularly through their Patron, opera singer Mark Le Brock.

In June 2007 a Headway House was started, providing a day service and staffed by volunteers. The most popular activities are art projects and internet access through lap top computers with appropriate hardware and software.

The day service is available every Monday, with monthly trips out. One of the notable features has been the attendance of carers, for whom the service is also of great benefit.

Our thanks to Helen McConville, Sarah Fryer, Debra Jackson and Stephen McAleese for their presentations at today's meeting.

Business Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Vivian Watson, Helen Atkin, Janice Thomson, Anne Hunter, Janet Grace, Julie Young and Alistair McDonald.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes were approved, with no matters arising.

3. Service Mapping Project Update

Stephen McAleese and Paul Saxon provided a brief update of the work being carried out by the Service Mapping Project Team, under the leadership of Simon Easton.

Stage 1 of the project is complete. As far as we have been able, details of providers of services in the region have been identified. For each service provider we have obtained details of the service they provide, the area they cover and contact details. The information available is better for providers in the independent sector rather than the statutory sector and further work needs to be done in this regard.

The plan is to publish the information through the NABIF website. The estimated cost, from the original website designer, is in the region of £2,250.

The meeting agreed in principle that we should aim to publish this information through the website. Consideration needs to be given as to the most cost effective way of doing this, and how it is to be funded. It was agreed by the meeting that if it was felt appropriate by the committee, funding should be requested on a voluntary basis from independent sector organisations who are "*members*" of NABIF.

4. October Conference

NABIF's second conference will take place at the Centre For Life, Newcastle Upon Tyne and 10th October 2009. At the date of this meeting there were 85 confirmed delegates.

5. Introductions

1. Voyage: Roy Jones and Sharon Goddard from Voyage introduced the service they provide. Voyage have been providing residential services for 20 years, predominately for individuals with learning disabilities. Approximately 5 years ago they created the first residential service for individuals with acquired brain injury. They have learnt from that experience and are now commissioning purpose built facilities and working in partnership with Headway.

There are plans to open three units in the North East:

Darlington - an 8 bed residential unit, all en-suite.

Woodlands, Acklam, Middlesbrough - a 10 bed residential unit, again with all en-suite rooms and an apartment.

Carville Road, Wallsend - a 12 bed unit with two apartments and a gym, which will have some supported independent living facilities with an outreach team. Services will include a day centre and training kitchen.

Voyage also have plans to acquire local housing stock in clusters for independent living, supported by their outreach team. At present they use consultants to provide therapy services on an identified need basis, but hope to recruit dedicated therapists to the organisation.

At present the above units of general registration with CSCI for aged 16 – 65.

2. Parkinson Homecare: Philip Parkinson introduced Parkinson Homecare, which provides care packages in a residential environment and in the community. Although not specialising in providing care to individuals with ABI, the organisation has 27 years experience of delivering care to a range of individuals and prides itself on providing a high standard of care, with a high standard of customer satisfaction.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

12th December 2008, 12 – 2pm at Walkergate Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne.