

Northern Acquired Brain Injury Forum
Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2009

In Attendance

Professor Mike Barnes, Paul Saxon, Janet Grace, Simon Richell, Fran Mayes, Julie Roberts, Anne Hunter, Viv Watson, Jackie Waggott, Andrew McDonald, Kirsty Petley, Julia Atherton, Lucy Fine, Helen Hastie, Sophie Williams, Alastair McDonald, Neil Brownlee, Helen Seabury, Mark White, Alison Langthorne, Nicola Marshall, Simon Easton.

Many thanks to Andrew Buckham for his presentation “Traumatic Brain Injuries to Military Personnel and Armed Forces Claims”

and

Anne Hunter and Kevin Mears for their presentation “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Head Injury”

Business Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Janis Smith, Vicki Gilman, Des O’Meara, Heather Batey, Helen Atkin, Helen Brunton, Paul Brown, Boda Gallon.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes were agreed, with no matters arising.

3. NABIF Conference 2009

The date for the next NABIF conference is Friday 30th October 2009.

The theme is: Long term consequences and challenges of ABI. Progress is being made with identifying speakers and putting together a programme.

4. UKABIF Update

Mike Barnes reported from UKABIF.

The UKABIF conference will take place on 11th November 2009. The theme is “Developments in ABI”.

The new website is about to be launched. It aims to be more informative and more interactive than the previous website.

5. Service Mapping Update

No progress has been made. We have been waiting for a response from Lynn Barr regarding funding to put the information in database form on the NABIF website.

We have an estimate of about £2,500 to do this. We have the money but it would greatly deplete our funds, which are needed to cover the costs of the next conference and quarterly meetings.

We have discussed many times the possibility of raising funds by way of voluntary donations from NABIF "members", but there is a reluctance to do this.

We also need to ensure someone is in place to update and maintain the database. Stephen McAleese has indicated an interest, but he needs to ensure he is able to commit the time required.

It was agreed we would have another attempt to contact Lynn Barr, accepting she has a large number of other commitments. PS to action.

6. North East Neurosciences Network

The Official launch is due next week and it was agreed we would ask someone to provide us with an update at the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

Janet Grace reported that the Neurobehavioural Unit has obtained a grant of £280,000 over 2 years to set up a pilot project providing transitional support into the community. It is hoped this will lead to a commissioned service. It is intended to set up a stakeholder meeting and a representative from NABIF would be welcomed.

Action: Executive Committee.

Lynn Barr has obtained funding to implement a mentoring project in the South of Tyne region. The project is funded for 2 years, but is in its early stages. The money is to fund the release of mentors. Meetings are to be arranged for those interested in providing mentoring.

8. Next meetings

Next meeting 3rd July in Newcastle