

Northern Acquired Brain Injury Forum (NABIF)

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th April 2008

In Attendance

Professor Mike Barnes, Des O'Meara, Paul Saxon, John Walker, Charlotte Macke, Helen Hastie, Julia Atherton, Nick Gutteridge, Andrew Lindsay, Alexia Hopwood, Helen Brunton, Veronica Cairns, Pam Towers, Boda Gallon, Alistair McDonald, Anne Hunter, Andrew McDonald, Simon Easton, Helen Atkin, Janis Smith, Jenny Locke, Jan Waddington, Julie Young, Alistair Berry, John Tuton, Judith Morrison, Les Hodgson, Viv Watson, Laura Graham, Simon Smith, Annie Barr, Jenny Garber, Jackie Roberts, Heather Batey, Kirsty Petley, Lindsey Dobson, Linda Wrout, Helen Seabury, Paul Brown, Catherine Symington.

Many thanks to Laura Graham and Simon Smith for their presentations.

Laura Graham

Dr Laura Graham is a Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at Walkergate Park. Laura provided a summary of the in patient and out patient services through the Neurorehabilitation Wards (3 and 4) at Walkergate Park.

Laura also has a liaison role, working into the neurosciences directorate. This provides an effective link between the acute services and neuro rehabilitation. Laura helped to set up the nurse led head injury clinic at NGH, which is run by the head injury clinical nurse specialist. The main function of the clinic is to review all head injured patients, aged between 16 and 65 years who have been in patients under the care of a neurosurgeon. They are seen approx. 3 months post injury, unless they have been transferred as 'in patients' into a neuro rehabilitation setting. Referrals for the clinic are also received from other hospital and community practitioners. The main function of the clinic is to identify any ongoing post head injury symptoms. If problems are identified, referrals can then be made to appropriate neuro rehab services or clinics.

Further details of Laura's presentation are available on request. Please e-mail to pauls@bhplaw.co.uk.

Simon Smith

Simon Smith is an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) working for Spiral Skills Advocacy Service (which is part of Learning First).

Spiral Skills are based in and cover Northumberland. The equivalent services in Newcastle are through Skills for People (dealing with mental capacity) and Newcastle Advocacy Service (dealing with elderly people and mental health issues).

Simon explained the role of the IMCA; how an IMCA is instructed; and funding issues.

Useful information is available from Chapter 10 of the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice, available from <http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/mca-code-of-practice.htm>

Spiral Skills are based at Chevyside, Yetholm Place, Newbiggin Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Telephone 0191 271 5353.

Business Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

John Llewlyn, Katy Collinson, Vicki Gilman, Stephen McAleese, Amjed Malik, Ben Townsend.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes approved.

3. Service mapping project update

Simon Easton provided an update. Service providers throughout the region have been identified. Contact details and further information about the service provision from each is being gathered. It is hoped to complete this before the end of May 2008.

The next stage will be creation of a database. A meeting is being arranged with the website designer to discuss the practicalities and cost.

4. October Conference

Helen Hastie and Paul Saxon provided an update. Confirmed speakers are Judge Denzel Lush, Bill Braithwaite QC, Catherine Dobson (Consultant Neuropsychologist) and Cathy Johnson (Case Manager, BABICM). Two speakers are waiting to be confirmed.

The theme for the conference is mental capacity, balancing empowerment of the individual against the need to provide protection, and the impact of the Mental Capacity Act.

This will be a one day conference at the Centre for Life. Members of NABIF will have an opportunity to have a stand, at a modest cost.

It is hoped that everyone will support the conference and advertise it through their own networks.

Although the purpose of the conference is not to make a profit, any surplus will be used to fund the service mapping project.

5. NSF and Regional Neurological Services Review

Helen Hastie, Vicki Gilman and Paul Saxon had a meeting with Lynne Barr on 20th February.

Lynne is the Service Reform Team Manager for Neurosciences for Middlesbrough PCT. Her primary role is the implementation of the NSF in the South Tees Region.

However, Lynne has a secondary role coordinating the activities across the SHA for the implementation of the NSF.

Lynne has for some time also been part of CSIP, an organisation outside the NHS monitoring neurological service provisions.

Lynne has created a commissioning network with one key contact commissioner from the North of Tyne, South of Tyne, Durham, Teesside and Cumbria PCT's. Most, if not all, of these commissioners are new in post and they are all, therefore, on a steep learning curve together.

Lynne's broad remit with Middlesbrough PCT is service reform and service improvement. A "*baseline audit*" of neurological services was due to be carried out on 28th March 2008, auditing service provision against the requirements of the NSF, and using the conditions set out on the long term conditions website. To begin with the audit will be a "*red light/green light*" assessment.

The aim is for all interested stakeholders to participate in the audit, which will include local authority departments (housing, social care, telecommunications and equipment), patient groups, GP's, carers groups, commissioners of services, community matrons, specialist providers (rehabilitation, including vocational rehab), specialist nurses, consultants and palliative care providers.

If it proves useful, the plan is to roll out this process into other areas.

Lynne expressed interest in NABIF's service mapping initiative. She is also keen to build up contacts with people involved with every aspect of service provision, and NABIF could assist her with this.

It was agreed we should ask Lynne to our next meeting.

PS drew attention to an e-mail received from Ailsa Nokes, Head of Service Improvement and Reform for NHS South of Tyne and Wear. NHS SOTW is planning a "*whole systems event on the reform of rehabilitation pathways*" on 18th April 2008. Applications are invited from interested parties.

6. Neurological Alliance Update

Boda Gallon provided a brief update. Progress is being made with setting up a neurological alliance in the North of the Region. A steering group is currently being put together. Anyone interested should please contact Pip Griffiths at Gateshead ABI.

7. UKABIF Update

Des O'Meara provided a brief update. At the moment the main focus is on a meeting of the Regional ABIF's, to take place on 20th May in London.

Mike Barnes, Des O'Meara and Stephen McAleese will be attending as UKABIF committee members. They can all represent NABIF's views, but it was agreed Stephen McAleese would be our "spokesman". He will report back to the next meeting.

A closer affiliation with UKABIF is one of the issues on the agenda.

8. Presentations

Catherine Symington provided information about the services available in the region from the Huntercombe Group. For further information please contact Catherine at catherine.symington@fshc.co.uk.

Alistair Berry provided an update in the services available through Rehab UK. In addition to the vocational rehabilitation service, Rehab UK now provide care services through the Blyth Day Centre and Outreach Care Team, and provide a Community Rehabilitation Service (providing individualised rehabilitation within people's own homes and local communities). For further information please contact Alistair Berry at alistairberry@rehabuk.org.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday 27th June 2008 at 12pm – 2pm. Venue TBA.