North Nottinghamshire Learning Disability Carers Network
Notes of meeting held on 18th January 2017
At Dukeries Academy, Ollerton

Newark & Sherwood CVS

Attending:
3 carers attended
Also attending:
Val Gardiner, Newark & Sherwood CVS
Nickie Anthony, Newark & Sherwood CVS
Konrad Bakalarczyk, Partnership Board Access Officer, Notts CC

Apologies received from 7 carers, Linzi Adams, Carers Trust East Midlands, Nottinghamshire Carers Hub, Zena Cameron, Nottinghamshire Carers Hub.

The notes of the last meeting were agreed a true record.

Transforming Care – carers requested that an update be provided on progress at the Partnership Board.
Action: Konrad to organize this.

Co-production work with Notts County Council
Carers requested an update on Notts County Council's co-production work. They said they needed some clarity and a definition of what co-production means to the council –e.g. how are staff trained to deliver co-production with service users and carers?
Carers asked if there have been any recent service reviews (e.g. transport) and what were the outcomes.
A carer said she had noticed a report in the local press about Notts County Council approving plans for the County's first KeyRing network where a group of people with learning disabilities will live within walking distance of each other. They are joined by a community living volunteer who will help with day to day living. This initiative has not been brought to the Partnership Board for discussion or information.
Action: Konrad to chase this up.
Post meeting update: please see attached reports on working together and co-production.
Nickie said she had noticed that NCC were advertising for 2 new Co-production workers to introduce and develop the approach of Co-production for people who are experiencing difficulties with living independently in order for them to access community services and develop self-help strategies (and so reduce the need for front line ASCH services).

NCC Budget – Carers asked if there was any information on the Council's intentions about raising the level of Council Tax, if so will the extra be ring fenced for social care?.
Action: Konrad to look into this.

Post meeting update: This year's 2% increase raised £5.97 million and had to be used to protect adult social care services (i.e. elderly care and care for people with disabilities). No decision has been made yet on next financial year's council tax levy.

Cuts to respite care and the impact on carers

Carers said that it seems that generally respite care allocations have been reduced by half and that carers don't know about it until it happens. People are going to appeal on an individual basis but there are concerns about the impact on carers who can't or won't go through an appeal. Carers felt that getting a break (particularly those caring for people with complex needs) is more cost effective in the longer term as they can care for longer. Carers felt that decisions like these made by the Council are not co-production and wanted to know what the Council's thinking is behind this decision. It was agreed that Carer representatives on the Partnership Board would raise this issue at their next meeting with the ASCH Service Director in February.

Action: Carers to email issues and any questions for the meeting to Val Gardiner vgardiner@nandscvs.org

Supported Living

Carers requested a written update from the Partnership Board on how the 4 core Supported Living Providers are working –e.g. are they sub-contracting and how is this working, and what quality monitoring is in place. A carer who attends the Provider Forum said that providers acknowledge that what should be provided and what is actually provided is sometimes different.

Action:Konrad to chase this up.

Learning Disability Self Assessment

Konrad said that the Autism self-assessment was completed and submitted to NHS England. He said that Notts County Council will be working throughout the year to gather information to go into the Learning Disability Self-assessment and asked if carers would be prepared to work with the Council on this. Carers agreed that they would.

Action: Konrad to contact carers when work is started.

Letter to MP's re changes to benefits and how people have to claim them

At the last meeting the Partnership Board carers agreed to draft a letter to local MP's and the Government on behalf of the Partnership Board, expressing concerns about difficulties people with learning disabilities may have in accessing the proposed online claims process.
The letter has been drafted by Adrian Hartley with input from carer representatives.
Konrad said he will forward further information to be included in the letter to Adrian.
The group thanked Adrian for putting together the letter.

Communication

Konrad said he has not yet taken up the issue of poor communication between the Council and customers due to the existing system as he felt he needed more detail e.g. what could be changed and what other customers may be affected.

Carers agreed to send information about their experiences (good and bad) of using the current communication systems (i.e. telephone, email, customer service centre etc) to Konrad.
Action: Konrad to email carers and service users requesting information.

There was a discussion about support for carers and Val and Nickie explained what work the CVS had been doing on behalf of Newark & Sherwood CCG:-

- Carer Friendly Communities Project – working with GP practices to identify a designated practice Carers Champion. Find out how the practice is already supporting carers and discuss how this might be improved. All GP Carers Champions identified and networking events held to help staff share good practice.
- CVS staff attended 5 GP practice Saturday Flu Clinics to talk to carers and provide them with information and support available.
- CVS staff attending GP surgeries, libraries etc to provide information for carers.

Partnership Board

There were no specific questions for the Partnership Board but there was a response to questions raised at the December meeting:-

- **Carers often experience difficulty when trying to communicate with the County Council , whether by email or telephone. Has NCC considered the impact of the current communication systems on their customers?**
  - **Ainsley MacDonnell will feed this back to the Customer Service Centre and ask for a response.**

- **The organisations that commission and provide health and social care services across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County have published their joint five year Sustainability and Transformation Plan.**
  Especially after Death by indifference, Winterbourne View, Mid Staffordshire and the Francis Report why has the Partnership Board not been included in the wide spread consultations leading to this collective plan of how local services will work to improve the quality of care, for the LD and Autism population's health and manage finances across the system?
  - **Ainsley MacDonnell said that these plans are out in the public domain for consultation – they contain lots of information about finances and hospital care etc and don't make for an easy read. There is no detail as yet about learning disability services. Ainsley agreed to bring simplified information about the plans to a health focused Partnership Board meeting in May.**
  - **Click here to read the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).**

Date of next meeting

Tuesday March 21st 2017
At 10am to 12pm
At the Dukeries Academy
Whinney Lane, Ollerton NG22 9TD

Future meetings:
May 9th
July 11th
September 14th
November 21st

Minutes produced by Newark & Sherwood CVS
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