

**North Nottinghamshire Learning Disability Carers Network**  
**Notes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**at Dukeries Academy, Ollerton**

**Present:** 3 carers attended

Also attending: Val Gardiner, Newark & Sherwood CVS, Zena Cameron, Nottinghamshire Carers Hub, Stacey Roe, Notts County Council, Jennifer Allen, Notts County Council

**Apologies:** 5 carers, Penny Spice, Notts County Council, Linzi Adams, Nottinghamshire Carers Hub

**Adult Social Care Strategy – Stacey Roe, Strategic Development Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council**

- Stacey said the Strategy applies to all adult care services. It sets out the Council's proposals for the future of adult social care in Nottinghamshire. The proposals are in line with the Council's Strategic Plan 2014-2018 and the Care Act 2014. It was adopted by the Council in April 2014 and principles are already being applied.
- Stacey said the strategy doesn't represent a significant change to services but there has been a shift in the Council's relationship with the public – there will be an expectation of shared responsibility in maintaining health and independence so that those in most need get the best services possible.
- Stacey said that the Council is operating new ways of working in order to be more efficient. For example staff will reduce travelling time where possible and are using think pads (sort of ipad) to be able to write up notes without having to be in the office. Assessments for service users and carers are being offered by telephone and online. Face to face assessments will continue where that is the most appropriate method. People can also access clinics to see social workers. Reviews will be done annually by a Central Reviewing Team (mainly older adult reviews).
- Stacey said the point of contact for the public is the Golden Number at the Customer Service Centre but people with LD and their carers can still contact their local Community Learning Disability Team (CLDT). People can be referred to advocacy support if they need help to access services.

**Carers Comments**

Carers said that they would not contact the Golden Number for support – they would contact the local CLDT. They also said that there needs to be more publicity about the Golden Number and the new online website Help Yourself.

Stacey said she would feed this back to the Council.

A carer commented that advocacy is not always an effective solution for people with learning disabilities as it takes time to get to know the person.

Carers said that they were asked their views about the future of advocacy services but have not been informed of the outcomes.

**Question for Partnership Board**

**Could you let us know the outcomes of the recent consultation on advocacy services.**

Val asked for a current structure of the Adult Social Care & Health Department.

**Action: Stacey to forward to Val current ASCH structure.**

The group thanked Stacey for the information.

**Transport proposals– Jennifer Allen, Project Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council**

Jennifer said there were 2 proposals to save money on social transport:-

- From 2016/16 transport charges will increase from £7 to £8 a day for people who have transport arranged and paid for by the Council.

The following year it will increase another £1 to £9 a day.

Jennifer said the current ASCH Transport budget is £3.7m. The Council also brings in some income from transport so the net cost is £2.9m. There are 991 service users and across a week 2875 journeys. These increases will save £160,000.

- Promoting Independent Travel – this is about helping people to stop using Council funded transport where they are able to be more independent and go by public bus, walk or use their own mobility transport.

Jennifer said this could save £0.5m a year. She said the assessment process will look more closely at what people’s transport needs are and encourage people to use their mobility allowance if they have one or access travel training to be able to use public transport.

Carers said they agreed with people using their mobility allowance but some people in rural areas may not be able to access public transport easily. Carers said that pupils with special needs are already doing travel training.

Carers commented that they would like to know that the Council is running their transport efficiently as making savings in this area has been discussed many times over the years.

Jennifer said that people can comment on these proposals up to 5<sup>th</sup> February.

**Proposal to set up a new Council owned company – Jennifer Allen, Project Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council**

Jennifer has been working on this idea for a few months. The Council needs to change how it works or it will not be able to provide all of its services.

The Council could set up a new company to run some of its services. These include:-

Church Street Residential Unit	Shared Lives
County Enterprise Foods	Day Services
Short Breaks	I Work

These services total about £17m. Staff would transfer into the new company. Jennifer said that there is a piece of EU Legislation that allows the Council to set up a Council owned company. 80% of the services it runs must be for the Council, but the other 20% could be work for new customers. For example, people who have a Direct Payment can’t currently buy back services from the Council. If the company makes a profit it could go back into the services or be given back to the Council to spend on other services.

The Council has been talking to other councils who have set up a similar company – Essex Care, Buckinghamshire Care and Olympus care in Northamptonshire.

Other ideas include setting up a social enterprise company – this sort of company is usually owned by the people who work for it or use it.

The Council owned company is the preferred option and the Council is now asking people for their views.

### **Carers comments**

Will this new company save the Council money?

Will it cost money to run?

Jennifer said this would be a way of sustaining services rather than saving money and the new company could generate income for the Council. The new company could find better ways of procuring services and resources.

Carers agreed in principle to the idea of a new Council owned company.

Carers said it would be interesting to hear from service users and carers from other areas that have set up a company to see if services have filled the gaps.

Zena said the Carers Trust East Midlands have a Carers Hub in Northamptonshire and she will contact them to look into this.

**Action – Zena to contact Northamptonshire Carers Hub for information.**

Carers commented that they get consultation overload and don't always get time to think about proposals because the timescales are short. They said that if they got more outcomes from their involvement they would be more inclined to respond to consultations.

Jennifer said there would be further opportunities to engage when the Council consult again on more specific questions about the project.

It is planned to take a paper to the Policy Committee by the end of May, there would then be a transition period May 2016 -January 2017 with a view to a new company being set up in April 2017.

The County Council Budget consultation **closes on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016** with final decisions being made by full Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Go to the County Council's website for more information on the budget consultation :-  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/budget](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/budget)

or contact the Customer Service Centre on the Golden Number 0300 500 80 80 or write to  
Freepost RTCU-CTYJ-XXKA, Budget Consultation,  
Notts County Council,  
County Hall,  
West Bridgford,  
Nottingham NG2 7QP to have your say.

The group thanks Jennifer for this information.

**Date of next meeting**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**At 10am to 12pm**

**At Dukeries Academy, Ollerton.**