

Minutes of Ipswich VASP Monthly Meeting 8th May 2014

Attendees:- Chair – Louise Marks - SFC, Julia Carr – Vasp Co-Ordinator, Jann Turner – French's Equine Rehabilitation Centre, Linda Brown – Julian Support, Richard Squirrell – Service-User, Elaine Thomas – Stepping Stones East, Jason Berry – Open Road, Jill Coleman – Voiceability, Jacqui Sawkins – NSFT, Andrea McDonald – Stonham Home Group, Angela Emmerson – PTSD Resolution, Bim Templeman – SCC/PHS, Fiona Palmer – United Response.

Minutes - Cathie Lee

All - Brief introductions from all, and a review of last month's minutes

Agenda Items:-

- 1) Pete Devlin – Personal Budgets**
- 2) Updates – Various**

1) Pete Devlin – Personal Budgets

(Apologies to PD from CL for any errors here – some of the technical details were beyond her reach. CL's fault not PD's!)

PD shares presentation notes with group. **Action Point:- Julia to re-forward presentation to LM for circulation to Vasp**

PD gives brief overview of "PB", and advises that it is intended to address inequalities in allocation of funding, taking a holistic approach in recognition that one individual may have a whole range of care needs. This is a movement away from "computing" customer need based on available service – solution; and allowing a more tailored/personal approach to customer need. **PD** quotes example of previously referring someone to provider e.g. Workwise; or now supporting someone if they feel that helping a family member as mechanic in garage would help in their recovery. **PD** advises that PB tends to be only accessible for those in secondary care as it is only available to those with a critical/high care need.

PD advises operating model is designed to be, not only, accessible but with a response proportionate to the enquiry.

PD tells group that it is recognised that there is a high failure rate to signposting, and they are looking to provide support to ensure those in need are able to access help.

LM recommends the warm handover system SFC currently utilise whereby (with client's consent) where client files are shared with relevant organisations: and it is the latter who initiate contact.

PD advises the role of Customer First is currently under review, and some of this role may devolve back to organisations.

Discussion around which aspects are means-tested. **PD** clarifies that ESA is not impacted by receipt of PB; however, the assessment for PB has element that is means-tested. **PD** advises that one exception to means-testing is those under Section 117 of Mental Health Act (as local authority had duty to provide care in these instances)

ET asks if someone in primary care e.g. elderly/ isolated could access PB if this could prevent need for going into residential care. **PD** clarifies that PB could be appropriate where there are no financial assets, family or community support.

ET also asks where "hoarders" fit in the absence of a specific diagnosis

RS expresses concern for those who fall just short of being unwell enough to qualify.

PD gives overview of Better Care Fund where an element of funding for CCG's only becomes "unlocked" once plans established and signed off for better integration with social care.

PD talks of a "Call to Action" in response to the fact A & E cannot sustain current levels of demand; with 25% of A & E admissions due to Mental Health. Areas under review include IT systems, possible negative impact of budgets; and with one possible solution being an urgent care centre at the front of A & E.

JT gives overview of her situation with her Care Farm – **Action Points:- 1) PD will share with social worker, and also forward to Jason Joseph, MH Commissioner. 2) LM will forward to PD & BT electronic version of care farm brochure, together with relevant hyperlink.**

BT also advises that, if people recovering from substance abuse work on the Care Farm, there is definitely funding available to support this through Public Health.

RS raises question of what is future for support groups who lose sufficient interest from service- users to continue. He also expresses concern that funded care- provider may unduly influence vulnerable service-user.

2) Louise Marks on behalf of David Grimmer

LM updates group on DG behalf, reading out details of Mental Health Awareness event 12/5 10-4 @Ipswich Library. www.mentalhealth.org.

LM to circulate full details

LM also advises group of Alzheimer's Society "Open up about Dementia" event 22/5 10-3 @Ipswich Library (12.30 – 2pm Music & memories)

3) Jill Coleman – Voiceability

Jill distributes posters regarding Wellbeing & Diversity Conference 15/5 (9:30 – 16:30) @Community Centre in Kesgrave which is aimed at staff. Contact ipswich@voiceability.org

4) Jacqui Sawkins – NSFT

JS updates group with news that the East Scrutiny Group met last week, and has now been renamed Consultation & Development Group: and they are also reviewing Terms of Reference. Regular meeting dates now established as the 3rd Tuesday in the month @St Clements.

JS also talks of available Trust Interview Panel Training 19/5 (10-2 @St Clements) which needs to be booked in advance. This is available for service-users or carers willing to support the Trust in future interviews.

JS confirms that, Sharon Picken met with the Board recently, and the Trust has agreed to sign up for the "Triangle of Care".

JS also advises group that new NSFT website was live as of yesterday

5) Julia Carr - Vasp

Julia updates group on proposed event at Museum of East Anglian Life, and requests we all pencil in Sat 9th August as possible date, which would coincide with Steam & Craft weekend. Julia has good news that Time For Change have now agreed not to charge for transportation of the equipment. More details of event to follow.

LM suggests Vasp “sub-committee” of those supporting an Ipswich WMHD event in the town centre along RS suggested “Get Suffolk Smiling” theme.

LM also advises Brandon & Thetford Vasp are looking to expand their geographic reach.

6) Bim Templeman – Public Health Suffolk

BT advises services (county-wide) are up for tender this month

BT gives dates for Recovery Network Forum as follows:- East – 6/6 Kesgrave Community Centre, West – 13/6 Genesis Housing, and Waveney 19/6.

Public Health Suffolk were made aware of local need for mutual aid programme for family and carers of those with substance abuse issues: and, as a result, have funded 3 future events facilitated by Judith Bourne @ SFC. More details to follow.

7) Angela Emmerson – PTSD Resolution

AE introduces Appzaps to the group & cards distributed. **AE** advises these are a selection of voice recordings (collated by professional therapists) designed to help people overcome fears/ phobias etc. With 1 app free and the remainder £1 each, this has been specifically designed for people who cannot afford to access counselling via the traditional route. <http://www.appzaps.co.uk/relaxing-your-mind>

Action Point:- AE will forward details to Julia for circulation through Vasp network countywide.

AE also shows group <http://www.appzaps.co.uk/relaxing-your-mind> leaflet following her attendance recently at Jason Manford comedy event in conjunction with The Depression Alliance.

jasonmanford@www.comedyfordepression.com

8) Richard Squirrel – Service-User

RS updates group with news that he is working with Crisis Team on “Conflict Resolution at the Point of Crisis”.

RS also advises that Community Engagement Partnership are currently reviewing their Terms of Engagement; and **RS** feels that MH is under-represented in this area; and, therefore this a good opportunity for people to apply for vacancies in the Partnership.

RS will send full details to Julia for circulation.

RS expresses disappointment in the posters advertising the forthcoming NSFT open days as these state words along lines of “there is no new money and yet more people to treat”. **Action Point:- LM will re-circulate.**

RS comments on recent NHS national campaign using 12 yellow men displaying specific areas requiring medical attention (ie one has head wound, another is sick). **RS** has asked why there isn’t a Mental Health yellow man – especially in the light that 25% of admissions are indeed MH. **RS** expressed disappointment that, when he challenged this earlier (prior to this meeting) he was asked “What would a yellow MH man look like? – his reply was “Just like anyone else”

RS has received negative feedback from both IDT & Wellbeing regarding the reception area @Mariner House (limited seating and “locked in” feel) **JS** will forward feedback on.

RS has positive news regarding his ongoing letter of complaint with NSFT; and is full of praise for the Pals service (Jan Martindale?) who have spent a great deal of time supporting him. **RS** is greatly appreciative of their positive attitude and “if we don’t know we’ll find out” approach

**Next Meeting Thursday 12th June 10 – 12 @<http://www.suffolkfamilycarers.org>
Large “Container” Temporary Office at front of site**