

## Report on First meeting of Learning Disability Task and Finish Group 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

I will try to keep my report on this meeting brief. The meeting was fairly informal and revolved around the five councillors present asking the four representatives from the social care service. Most of the discussion was on how the service works.

There was talk of how personalisation of care can be more cost effective as there was in the past an assumption that a big care package was a good care package. However, if training is provided early and it is targeted it can provide better care. The example was given of how some individuals only require help to make breakfast and get off to work. In the past there was a desire to give people more care than they needed. While I agree that this maybe the case I feel that it important to take care that financial pressures do not result in too little care being given and this being explained as the care being more personalised. I believe that this is not the intention but measures must be taken to prevent this. Case studies will be presented at the next meeting to show in greater depth the range of cases the service deals with. I hope that the case studies will present a genuine range of service users and that there isn't cherry picking to shape conclusions.

There was talk of how the service could do more to encourage the uptake of individual budgets (this is part of the new national reforms and places the care budget in the hands of service users). The potential for this to end up with people having less money to spend in total, leading to a decrease in the services they use, was raised. The lead officer suggested that an individual payment card would help with increasing take up. Wigan was noted as doing a good job with increasing personalisation of care. The meeting also discussed the fact that the social care bill allows the care package to move with an individual meaning that councils cannot change the main body of a previous authority's assessment. This could be very expensive and Councillor Andrews suggested that this could be exploited by less honest councils.

A list of places which provide care was noted as potential places for the Task and Finish group to visit. I feel that one meeting at a coffee morning is hardly enough time to really assess how service users feel about the care they receive.

The above is a brief overview if anyone would like more depth please ask me.

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