



NORFOLK SUBSTANCE MISUSE CARERS PARTNERSHIP

Held: 10.30 a.m. Wednesday 25th February 2009
Phoenix House

Minutes

Present:	Apologies:
Katie Hammett (KH) (<i>Chair</i>)	Norfolk DAAT
Lynn Claydon (LC)	TADS
Jane Evans	West Norfolk Carers
Alasdair Macdonald (AM)	Carer's Representative
Derek Hewis (DH)	T2
Kim Martins (KM)	TADS – GY
Jane Horsley (JH)	NORCAS
Jane Parr (JP)	CADS
Veronica Nelhams (VN) (<i>Mins</i>)	Norfolk DAAT

Item	Subject
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies for absence</p> <p>KH welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies had been received.</p>
2.	<p>Acceptance of minutes from previous meetings of the Norfolk Substance Misuse Carers Partnership held on Wednesday 23rd July 2008 (including any confirmation of any part of the minutes exempt under the Fol Act)</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 22nd October were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with two corrections. Jane Horsley was not shown as attending and it was her colleague who had carried out the training in Gt Yarmouth with parents who substance misuse – minutes to be amended prior to publication on the website.</p>
3.	<p>Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd October 2008:</p> <p>VN had contacted Teresa George who was asking her line manager whether she should join the group but no further response had yet been received; VN would ask TG again.</p> <p>Action: VN to ask TG whether she would be joining the group at a future date.</p> <p>KH said that the Family & Friends Referral Form had now been developed and was ready for download from the Nordat website by any organisation that wished to use it; KH did stress that it was not a compulsory form just a tool there to help.</p> <p>AM said that he had considered joining the Carers' Council but felt that he was unable to do so at this time.</p> <p>LC said that the person she had approached to join the group needed more time to consider the possibility. KH asked the members to keep in mind the need for more family and friends to join the group.</p>

	<p>JH apologised that she had been unable to provide the link to the research on the ADFAM site which showed that GPs were the biggest hurdle to carers being referred on and it didn't appear to be on the website now. However, there was another piece of research that covered GPs. VN agreed to distribute the link to the group.</p> <p>Action VN to distribute link to ADFAM research to group.</p> <p>KH told the group that hard copies of the Family & Friends Leaflet had now been distributed to all GPs surgeries in Norfolk.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Family & Friends Strategy</p> <p>KH had distributed a first draft of the Carer and Friends Strategy for comment by the group who agreed that this should be called the Family & Friends Strategy. KH said that she would recirculate to the group by 6th March once amendments had been made; the group should then submit their comments to her by 20th March; the Strategy would then go to the April JCGs; then following on from a 3 month consultation period JE and KH would take to the Carers Council on 10th August 2009.</p> <p>Action: Group to submit comments on the Strategy to KH by 20th March 2009.</p> <p>LC said that 3.4 should include the phrase 'increasing professionals' awareness of the legislation around carers' rights. The Group agreed.</p> <p>Discussions took place in that the group felt there was a barrier around the amount of work that could be done with family and friends because of lack of capacity. JP from CADs Kings Lynn had a full social work load but was also the designated carers lead; she had insufficient time to do many carers assessments and felt that if, she did, there might be a conflict of interest as she may have the carer and the cared for as clients.</p> <p>The group felt that there was a lack of funding for the family and friends agenda and services were limited.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Carers' Funding 0910 and emergency respite</p> <p>KH told the group that she had had no confirmation as yet about the funding coming from the NCC Carers Grant although the funding element of the PTB was confirmed in principle as £35,000. In principle it had also been agreed by the Commissioners that the Thetford provision would be cancelled; other provisions to remain the same and for the TADS assessor post to be extended to cover the county. JP pointed out that Kings Lynn did not receive any funding for an assessors post.</p> <p>KH also told the group that there was a small pot of £2,000 that had been allocated retrospectively for respite in 0809. It would not be possible to make use of this money at this point. She queried whether the group would be able to make use of this in future years – all agreed that it should be requested.</p> <p>Action: KH to request carers respite funding</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>KH distributed a feedback evaluation of the Volunteers Working with Families of Drug/Alcohol Misusers training which showed a positive outcome. LC and JP had attended the training which they had enjoyed and which acted as a refresh but felt that there should be a separate course for professionals and for carers aiming to acquire skills to use in their caring relationship.</p> <p>KH told the group that in principle the same money for training was being allowed for in 2009/10 as in 2008/09. After discussion the group agreed that there should be 2 shorter courses i.e. one for the professionals and one for carers aiming to acquire skills to use in their caring relationship. JH said that NORCAS had been unsure about the work being taken forward by volunteers</p>

7.	<p>Norfolk Carers Strategy</p> <p>KH told the group that the Carers Council were having an event on 19th March for people to input into the Norfolk Carers Strategy; KH was unable to attend but JE said that she hoped to attend.</p>
8.	<p>2009/10 Young Carers Plan</p> <p>Stewart Betts had asked the group to identify some priorities for the Children & Young People's Plan; these would be shown to the young carers for their point of view. The deadline for these priorities was 4th March. The group identified 6 points and KH would be forwarding these on to Stewart by the deadline.</p> <p>Action: KH to forward recommendations to Stewart Betts by 4th March.</p>
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>DH told the group that the time counsellors spent working with children of substance misusing parents had gone up in Jan 2009 to 82% compared to Jan 2007 when it was 28%. JE said that she was at the planning stage for next year's Carers Week.</p>
10.	<p>Date, time and venue of next meeting</p> <p>10.30 a.m.Wednesday 20th May 2009– Phoenix House Conference Room</p>

Copies of Minutes and papers can be obtained from:-Norfolk DAAT

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