



Carers And Parents of adults with learning disabilities in Enfield

Community House
311 Fore Street
Edmonton
N9 0PZ

Chair: Surojit Walawalkar
Vice-Chair / Secretary: Wendy Berry
Treasurer: John Berry
Administrator: Luan Malley

Tel: 020 8373 6228
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Minutes

Meeting: Monday 7th February 2022 10am to 12.30pm

Present: Board members: Wendy Berry (WB) Surojit Walawalkar (SW) Jane Richards (JR) Bernadette Reigar (BR)

Minute Taker: Deanna Rogers from EDA

Apologies: Adu Meniru, Rohit Pandya

Members attended: 23 CAPE Members attended

AGENDA	
1	Welcome & Apologies
	<p>SW welcomed everyone to the meeting today. Apologies received as above. SW was pleased to advise that there have been many meetings on behalf of CAPE and that things are moving on well, some of which will be discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>WB informed the group that she has copies of some good reference books and papers that they can access if needed. These include the Disability Handbook, Luke Clements legal "Bible" and printed copies of the Care Act. Agenda items followed.</p>
2	Charging Policy Consultation
DRE	<p>WB advised that the Local Authority has sent letters out to everyone regarding the Adult Social Care Charging Policy 2022-23 Consultation. WB urged everyone to read and respond to the issues raised and focus on Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) and Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG).</p> <p>For help with DRE look at mylife.enfield.gov.uk or call LBE Financial Assessments on 020 8379 8177. There are many things which you need because of your disability that can be claimed for without providing receipts such as: up to £7.07 for new shoes and chemist items such as creams etc., £8.55 for laundry costs. WB advised to check as there is a long list of examples that will reduce your charge. The L.A.s' proposal is that DRE reasonable amount 'thresholds' will increase by 2.5% (less than inflation) , but there is no mention of an uplift for existing DRE claims, which is their usual policy. This percentage is not in line with the rise of 3.1% for benefits. This change needs to be challenged.</p>
MIG	<p>The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) allowance for the statutory MIG for a severely disabled person is £151.45, however LBE is giving a discretionary MIG of £164.20, following several campaigns locally and nationally. LBE's current proposal is not at all clear, and we shall try to obtain clarification of what they are planning (post meeting note – this was proposal was removed from the consultation). It is important that CAPE members request a copy of their breakdown of charges, and this should be automatically provided as it is unlawful not to do so. Refer to their policy document section 3, paragraph 3.</p> <p>To summarise, the most important items in this consultation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uplift to the DRE percentages are incorrect



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity is needed on the MIG proposal Breakdown of charges must be sent to service users with the annual charge notification <p>WB advised members to get advice re savings as they need to be declared and may affect any benefits received, or social care charges. Contact Enfield Carers Centre or Enfield Connections.</p> <p>The consultation can be found on: www.enfield.gov.uk/AdultSocialCareConsultations responses can be made by email at financialcharges2022.consultation@enfield.gov.uk written comments can be posted in the prepaid envelopes provided. There is not an accessible version. The closing date for responses is 4th March 2022 (Later extended to 18th March 2022)</p>
3	LBE Budget 2022-23 For Information
	<p>Information regarding the Budget for 2022-23 Have Your Say is on the LBE website. It gives details of their proposals and priorities towards setting its budget for 2022-23. They are proposing many cuts to their spending, including for example £100,000 ‘savings’ on care charges, £200,000 savings by using ‘strength based programmes’ to reduce long term demand on care purchasing budgets and £683,000 savings to reduce care purchasing costs, transition and increasing Continuing Health Care income.</p> <p>Check the enfield.gov.uk website to look at the summary, facts and figures along with their savings proposals. The website has a questionnaire and an easy read version. Unfortunately the closing date was 11th February 2022.</p>
4	Household Support Fund
	<p>Enfield has received £2.85 million from the government for distribution of £100 grants to assist families with high needs, specifically those deemed to be ‘in crisis’ or at risk of this. The latest Carers Centre Newsletter has a page covering this subject and answers questions including: Who is eligible? How much will I receive? What can I use the fund for? When will I receive it? No one can apply for this payment it is based on the information that Enfield Council holds, and LIFT (Low Income Family Tracker) software is used to identify those entitled to the grant. You can read details of this on ECC’s website www.enfieldcarers.org see ECC Newsletter page 19. There would appear to be some inconsistent results, whereby some people were selected for the £100 payment, whereas others in identical situations were not. So far, it has been impossible to gain any detailed information about the allocation criteria, but the Money Matters Group is attempting to do this.</p>
5	Water and Electricity Schemes
	<p>WaterHelp Thames Water – discounted bills by 50% if you live in a low-income household (in London that’s up to £19,000), details on www.thameswater.co.uk or call 0800 009 3652 8am-5pm Monday to Friday to discuss options or request a form.</p> <p>Warm Home Discount Scheme – Contact your electricity provider if you’re on a low income. If you are eligible, you will receive a letter between October and December and the discount is applied to your bill by 31 March the following year.</p>



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6	Future Planning
	<p>SW has spoken with a lady named Christine Towers, the founder of Together Matters, www.togethertatters.org.uk Christine has a lot of experience of working with people with learning difficulties and their families. Her guide 'Thinking Ahead' helps to plan for the future, when we are no longer around and is specific to individual needs. This would run as a workshop with breakout sessions around the various issues such as legal & financial plans, housing, managing care and emergency contingency planning.</p> <p>The local authority is receptive to this idea, and Vicky Main is keen to pursue this type of planning, which has already been used in Essex. Social Workers, Housing and Care Providers need to be involved, along with Vicky Main, and members of the Task and Finish Group coordinated by Ineta Miskinyte (L.D. Commissioning). It was suggested that this work could be repeated in an annual Thinking Ahead & Planning Ahead event. Along with forward planning, it would be good to run a 'Transition from Home to Supported Living' workshops; other local authorities in Essex & Norfolk are already doing this. It's an opportunity for families and carers to meet and support each other in making plans.</p> <p>SW asked the members if they would be happy for him to invite Christine Towers to the next CAPE meeting, this was agreed by all with the possibilities of having the meeting filmed to enable more people to participate via Teams or Zoom.</p>
7	Independent Living Strategy
	<p>A presentation of the Independent Living Strategy was made at the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (LDPB). This is a new strategy for independent living, which may become a consultation; some of CAPE's committee members will be participating in Focus Groups, to consider this strategy This affects a wide range of people, not only adults with learning difficulties.</p>
8	Vaccination Hub
	<p>Sarah Pope has arranged for this at Chase Farm hospital and at Park Avenue on Fridays. The Park Avenue venue is more suitable for people who are happier in a more natural environment. Referrals can be made to Sarah or the Community Nursing Team.</p>
9	Members Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One member reported that she is unable to go into the house where her son lives, only into his bedroom – JR will check with Sarah Pope



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member requested an information session on Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). This is the replacement for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) however the original implementation date for LPS (April 2022) cannot be met according to www.gov.uk SW indicated that this topic would be brought up at the LDPB• Member concerned that he has not received any copies of the annual review of his family member's Care & Support Plan, for a number of years, other members said they had similar experiences. SW said that draft copies should be sent for comments and signed off; this will be brought up at the Focus Group• Member asked about transferring money to a Trust, this information was covered in the last meeting. Contact Roger Galloway from Honey Legal, The Will Associates Ltd on 077677327284. Mencap Seminars Wills and Trusts also recommended re planning for the future. Check Mencap website on Zoom at the end of February <p>SW ended the meeting and thanked everyone for coming today, it was good to see so many joining us today.</p>
	Date of Next Meeting
	April 4th, speaker Christine Towers from Together Matters. Subject 'Planning for the Future'. The meeting will be extended until 3 p.m., and a light lunch will be provided. Enfield Carers Centre will be supporting CAPE to deliver this event.