



# 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

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## Minutes

**Meeting:** Monday 1st August 2022 10am to 12.30pm

**Present:** Board members: Wendy Berry (WB) Surojit Walawalkar (SW), Jane Richards (JR), and Bernadette Reigar (BR) Minute Taker: Deanna Rogers from EDA

**Members attended:** 20

AGENDA	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>
	<p>SW welcomed members and speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Reddin, Service Development Manager and Local Authority Commissioner for the Learning Disability and Autism Service</li> <li>• Liz Griffiths, Brokerage Operations Manager.</li> <li>• SW also formally introduced JR and BR as CAPE committee members.</li> </ul> <p>WB informed the group that copies of the 'Charges for Community Care Services for People Living at Home' booklet are available for member to collect, if required. No apologies were received.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Brokerage Commissioning Service Liz Griffiths</b>
	<p>SW referred to successful Thinking Ahead event on planning for the future in April. CAPE is really pleased the Local Authority is looking at all the issues. (These matters will worsen as we all get older.)</p> <p>LG began by explaining the role of Brokerage Commissioning Services team based at the Civic Centre. There are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 communication brokers dealing with care packages, residential placements, respite, and nursing</li> <li>• 3 specialist brokers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ one for people with learning disabilities</li> <li>○ one working for people with mental health</li> <li>○ one working on Hospital Discharge at Barnet, Chase Farm and North Middlesex hospitals</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>External Home Care Providers are all on the Care Place system. There are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 93 Domiciliary Care Providers, only about 30-35 of these are commissioned</li> <li>• 81 Care Homes in the borough for residential, nursing and respite depending on the needs of the service user and on whether they have mild to challenging behaviour.</li> </ul> <p>The Brokerage Team is in the process of reviewing providers; all new providers are screened. WB asked about the process. SW indicated that there is a need to meet and assess clients to put together a support plan. Once this has been agreed, brokerage then looks at the request and discusses details with the family. Brokers</p>





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are aware of the various Day Centres and explain to clients what will then happen. They always communicate with the client to ensure everyone is involved.

JR asked about the availability of accommodation for Supported Living and progress with the Meridian Water development.

- LG said his is currently being looked and stated Enfield has more supported living properties available than the need demands. Other boroughs also use Enfield's accommodation. There are lower numbers for domiciliary care than for supported living.
- SW said that whoever can provide the element of the care package will go through the bidding process.

WB asked what happens with school leavers in transition regarding Direct Payments? They are given direct payments but have no guidance as to what to do with it.

- JR is working with Chris O'Donnell on direct payments for this group.

BR said that housing needs to be as permanent as possible. Private sector properties are not stable in the long term. BR asked if the LA has been liaising with housing associations to provide more permanent long-term accommodation for adults with learning disabilities who are now living much longer than in the past.

Other issues arising from the group included:

- Moving around to different places is difficult for people with Autism; they do not like constant change, therefore, stable housing is important.
- Some people who have learning disabilities own their home, however, there were queries about if this is allowed and how to go about it.
- Shared ownership: the take up for this option has not been good for people with learning disabilities. Some that are half owned by the LA and half by the service user which allows continuity and is a much better option.
- As there were 150 applications to provide services what is the criteria for people with learning disabilities? LG said that there are 50 providers currently being used and she has a Quality Assurance Team that go out and check all of these
- People with learning disabilities are reticent about community residential care and some are now in group supported living properties, which look more like residential care.

After a wide- ranging discussion, it was suggested that Lia Markwick is invited to the October meeting.

WB asked how we find out about services to purchase with direct payments.

- There is a learning disabilities resource directory that shows Day Centres and all services in the Enfield area.
- LG will provide information about the Learning Disabilities Brokerage Worker, Shane McDonald, who will be able to give advice.



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<b>3</b>	<b>Direct Payments</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CR indicated that some newer Day Centres are not liaising with the LA and often family members are being named for Direct Payment purposes- It is important to ensure that the quality of providers is appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>Further comments from the group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A parent enquired about her son who has a learning disability and autism. He has unpaid voluntary work and was getting a care package but refuses to go out with carers. His mother is now providing this support instead of care staff. He could not live on his own but is it possible for him to go into supported living to learn how to live independently?</li> <li>The advice was to make enquiries about Vincent House, which is used for short term occupancy to learn independent living skills. There should be an approved care plan to include funding for taking her son out and additional expenses or DRE for any holidays. CR said that his needs to be reviewed to look at a solution. The Care Manager will need to review the plan.</li> <li>LG will investigate this situation.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>What Happens When My Carer is Not Around? - Chris Reddin</b>
	<p>The Integrated Learning Disability Service for Enfield have analysed the needs for the growing demand of services now that people with learning disabilities are living much longer. There are currently 1250 adults known to the service who can access services such as occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and art therapy. They know that within the next 20 years the prediction is for 6,378 service users; one of the largest increases is in the over 75 years old group.</p> <p>Enfield is part of the North Central London commissioning group for health services along with Barnet and Haringey. Integrated health partnerships increase collaboration and address inequalities. There are more people with learning disabilities using special services, recently a Specialist Housing Board has been set up to improve the standard and quality of supported living. Landlords in the borough must provide specific licensing and other departments who deal with housing work together. They also work with Children’s Services and transition to establish needs. They are also looking at good practice for example Equals for employment, Occupational Therapy and Psychologists for challenging behaviour support.</p> <p><b>The Independent Living Strategy</b></p> <p>Two focus groups have been set up to discuss all the priorities. There will be a consultation in September to give everyone the opportunity to develop what this strategy should look like and to provide useful feedback. The information on this will be on the website. SW and BR were on one of the focus groups. There was a request for an Easy Read version to be produced, specifically focused for people with learning disabilities to enable them to participate and that hard copies must be available as many people are unable to access the internet. A general consultation is not appropriate for people with learning disabilities as members of the public do not understand their needs. SW commented that there are provisions for older people, so there should be one for our client group</p>





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	<p>Regarding housing, campus-based accommodation has already been recently built in Enfield. There was concern that planners and some providers assumed that this is what people with learning disabilities need. CAPE members felt this type of accommodation can be insitutionalised. The LA should have consulted with people who have LD and their representatives before going ahead with this type of accommodation.</p> <p>It was reiterated that Lia Markwick should be invited to the next meeting, however, as this is not until October, there is a need to meet with her before the consultation. The housing consultation could be mentioned in the Carers Voice magazine.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Invite Lia Markwick to the next meeting. WB</p> <p>The Big Issue presented at the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board in May 2021 focused on the subject 'What happens when my carer is not around'. A copy of the presentation has been attached with these notes for your information. A few key points from the presentation are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A survey conducted from March 2020 until January 2022 found that 70,000 people in England employ PA's</li> <li>• 50% of them said it was hard to find the right people, if they are employed, they are more likely to be retained</li> <li>• If a family has a complex Direct Payment package, they are entitled to receive money to manage the care, this is in the Care Act</li> <li>• Anyone providing personal care must be CQC registered unless they are family members</li> <li>• There are 1250 adults with learning disabilities on the register, however not all of them are known to the service</li> <li>• Figures for the over 60's are increasing so future needs must be met</li> <li>• CR is keeping in touch with Christine Towers, the speaker at the Thinking Ahead meeting as this is all relevant to her work</li> </ul> <p>BR asked if the Specialist Housing Committee Board has a representative(s) for people with learning disabilities. <b>Action:</b> Check with Chris O'Donnell (BR).</p> <p>SW explained the Thinking Ahead process and CAPE will continue to follow this up. There is a Task and Finish group that meets every six weeks, this is all work in progress as the project is not yet complete. Enfield Carers Centre has arranged a programme of 6 workshops to be held at their centre on the first Friday of every month, starting on 5<sup>th</sup> August, to ensure that plans are made for the future.</p> <p>There is an open meeting to relaunch the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022. This is being held at Park Avenue from 10.00am until 3.00pm</p>
5	<p><b>Date of next meeting: The Cost Of Living Crisis - What Help is available for Disabled People and their Families?</b></p>
	<p>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 at Park Avenue Disability Resource Centre from 10.00am until 12.30pm</p>





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**Post Meeting Note:** Unfortunately, Lia Markwick has been unable to accept CAPE's invitation, as she does not work on Mondays. Nevertheless, we have been very fortunate to arrange an extremely important presentation, by Enfield L.A.'s Welfare Advice and Debt Support Team, on:

**The Cost Of Living Crisis - What Help is available for Disabled People and their Families?**

**We strongly advise everyone to come along, on October 3rd., as this presentation will include the very latest information about the Government's and the L.A.'s ways of providing financial assistance in these extremely challenging times**