



Carers And Parents of adults with learning disabilities in Enfield

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

Community House
311 Fore Street
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Tel: 020 8373 6228
Email: CAPE@e-d-a.org.uk

Meeting: Monday 15th April 2019
At: Community House

Minutes

Chair: Surojit Walawalkar (SW), **Vice-chair:** Wendy Berry (WB), **Administrator:** Luan Malley - EDA (LM)

Members attended: 13

Guest Speaker: Patricia Mecinska from Healthwatch Enfield

Welcome: WW welcomed the members, and introduced Patricia and Yvonne from Healthwatch. After the talk from Healthwatch we will update members on the important changes for 2019/2020 on Social Care Charging, and CAPE.

1. Healthwatch.

Patricia the CEO of Healthwatch thanked SW and CAPE members for inviting them to let you know who they are and what they do.

Healthwatch Enfield is an independent organisation representing patients and service users, ensuring peoples voices are heard by the delivery services. Helping the borough to secure improvements to services such as GP surgeries, hospitals, dentists, pharmacies, care homes, clinics etc.

Collecting experiences and views of local people, the information and recommendations are then passed on to the individual practice, local council and Care Quality Commission.

Patricia gave us a couple of examples that had been brought to their attention, this was taken up with the hospital and the issue was resolved.

All good and bad experiences count and all comments are treated as confidential.

Patricia invited the members to split up into three groups to fill out a NHS Long Term Plan for parent/carers Survey. This survey focused on care and support for individuals with learning disabilities, Autism, ADHS and other disabilities.

The next exercise was to sit in two groups to discuss experiences of Hospitals, GPs Community Services, Mental Health Services, Social Care Services, Voluntary and Community services. This covered, experience, awareness, adjustments, understanding, communication and helping to improve services.

Patricia informed the group this information will be collated and will feedback to the group at a later date. She thanked the group for invite and the feedback.

The group enjoyed the session and would like to invite Healthwatch back.

Healthwatch kindly made a donation to CAPE's funds, for our assistance in acting as a focus group.

2. Social Care Charging.



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SW: Gave an update on the Social Care Charging Policy. This is important and will affect most of us. It can be insidious, which could be something that happens, and a lot of people do not realise. Changes can be made to the policy and implemented and suddenly you are paying a charge, or charges have increased not knowing as to why. A consultation should take place if any policy changes are proposed, before they can be implemented. This is where members WB, Jane Richards (JR) and Bernadette Reigar (BR)), and voluntary sector representatives (CAB, ECC, EDA, EC) have been involved in discussions with the policy making team to ensure that policy is transparent and correct We have been very successful in stopping possible policy changes and will wait to monitor the policy implementation for 2019-20.

WB: You will receive a letter regarding contributions for 19/20 shortly. We encourage calling and requesting the financial break down if not received; they have said they will be sent out automatically. The important part is how much has been calculated on your DRE (Disability related expenditure). This is money you spend on items related to disability. Please find links below with more information and items that can be claimed for.

<https://mylife.enfield.gov.uk/media/25005/dre-factsheet-2019-v11-final.pdf>

<https://mylife.enfield.gov.uk/media/24560/living-at-home-charging-policy-2018-19-upd-sept2.pdf>

The council will process all reasonable costs without you having to provide evidence. You just need to explain why your disability means you need to spend this. This is a new and important improvement. The council will ask for evidence of any particularly high or unusual DRE. This has now become easier, so please check the new factsheet to see if you are entitled to more DRE. You can ask for a copy of the new DRE factsheet to be sent to you if you are not an on-line user. Capital DRE expenditure can also be claimed over a 5 year period for example - needing to purchase a bed / carpet / chair, etc. more frequently because a person is disabled.

Wendy, Jane and Bernadette have met with the team for over a year now and had lengthy discussions with senior officers regarding the DRE.

Officers are currently working on the new charging policy for this coming year, and they will give us the opportunity to make comments before being published. The policy is already late. Things are improving and have made important breakthroughs.

CAPE being a small group has accomplished some big changes, organizations from other boroughs is reaching out to us for advice. Our successes have been with challenging Transport / night care charges and producing the new DRE factsheet.

3. CAPE Update.

SW: updated the members CAPE is now self sufficient, they are currently opening a new bank account and has a board and committee as follows:

- **Chair:** Surojit Walawalkar
- **Vice-chair:** Wendy Berry
- **Treasurer:** John Berry
- **Management Committee:** Jane Richards and Bernadette Reigar

We are currently reading and signing relevant documents.

EDA wrote us into the Outcome 4 bid (giving vulnerable people a voice) and we have received a cheque for 18/19, in recognition of CAPE's work, and we will invoice them on a quarterly basis for 19/20. CAPE shall pay EDA for the support we receive from Luan, room hire, etc. CAPE would now be able to raise funds independently, if we wished.



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SW: Showed the group the new coloured logo and informed the group of the new e-mail address set up for CAPE. This is CAPE@e-d-a.org.uk. We are currently looking at updating the leaflet.

4. A.O.B. and Next Meeting.

WB: Updated the group Neil Niehorster (Head of L.D. Service) and Geoff Lambrick (Head of L.D. Care Management) are leaving the Learning disabilities team, through retirement, later in the year. Their replacements have not yet been appointed. They have both been very supportive of CAPE, and we shall need to create a positive relationship with the new L.D. managers.

WB: Asked the group if there is a particular speaker they would like for the next meeting
The group suggested the Learning Disability Nurse and the Community LD Nurse. We should also like to invite Niel and Geoff before they retire.

Next meeting: Monday 17th June 2019, 7pm-9pm., Community House, Edmonton.

If you have questions please contact Luan Malley at EDA on 020 8373 6228 or CAPE@e-d-a.org.uk