

Notes of the sixth informal meeting of the Patient & Public Involvement Forum for Manchester Mental Health & Social Care

Held Wednesday 28th July 2004, 6pm at Friends Meeting House

Members present: Derek Wyness (DW), Alan Hartman (AH), Graham Stierl (GS), Angela Young (AY), Kimberley Wilson (KW), Joel Richman (JR), Tony Riley (TR).

Also present: John Ford (JF, South Mcr PCT PPI Forum), Rose Richman (visitor), Carey Bamber (CB, NIMHE), Jenny Plumb (JP) and Karen Tucker (KT, BHA).

Apologies: Joanne Wilcock

Item	Discussion	Actions
1.	<p>Introduction to new members</p> <p>As there were new members at the meeting, everyone present introduced themselves to the group.</p>	
2.	<p>Feedback from the MUN (Manchester Users Network) meeting on 5th July 2004-08-02</p> <p>This meeting was attended by AH and AY from the PPI Forum. The subject of the meeting was advocacy in Manchester. AH told the group that the user's Terms of Reference regarding advocacy had been largely abandoned and needed to be reinstated. Different types of advocacy were discussed at the meeting; including the differences between peer and professional advocacy. There was a representative from the Joint Commissioning Executive (JCE) at the meeting, who confirmed that there was very little Trust money available for advocacy. He pointed out that advocacy would be funded by the JCE, and expressed their commitment to this service.</p> <p>An example of how advocacy works in other areas was mentioned – Bolton, Salford & Trafford Mental Health Trust have inpatient advocacy provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau and paid for by the local PCTs. Members agreed that they need to look at good practice in other Trusts in Greater Manchester, and join up with the PPI Forums in these areas.</p>	

3. Discussion with Carey Bamber about the Trust's 'Visioning Project'

CB gave the members a recap on what the Visioning Project is. It is the Trust's response to CHI's recommendations for change following the allegations of abuse. It will involve developing an action plan to arrive at a shared concept of secondary mental health care services. The Trust is aware that it is not delivering on many of the required standards, for example assertive outreach services. In addition to this, Manchester has much higher levels of mental health need than previously thought; the levels are comparable with those in London although Manchester is only funded on the same basis as cities such as Leeds and Leicester. The Trust is in financial crisis, and is running at an annual deficit of £6million. The Audit Commission will be looking into the way the Trust is spending public money. The Trust has also received a zero star rating from the Healthcare Commission.

CB explained that she works for the National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE), and that her remit is to feed the views of service users and carers into the Visioning Project Boards. The Trust has stated that there will be no direct user or carer involvement on these boards, apart from one member of the Local Implementation Team. CB added that at present the Trust has no infrastructure in place for service user involvement; for example they have no policy for refunding expenses. CB is therefore acting as the link between service users and the Trust.

There are 4 Visioning Project groups – Primary Care, Crisis and Emergency Care, Acute Services, and Community Services. They have recently started meeting and the timescale is very short – the deadline for the action plan to be submitted is 27th August 2004. CB mentioned that the Local Implementation Team are planning to hold an open event on 31st August at the Mechanics Institute, to present the options for care suggested by the different groups. Members commented that as this event is after the deadline for the visioning project it is not consultation with users.

Ay asked whether CB's feedback from the user groups she has attended will have a significant influence on the visioning project. CB answered that the groups will be taking her feedback into account; although as the project is very general at this stage perhaps a better opportunity for involvement would be from September onwards when the project goes into the implementation stage. JR commented that user involvement in health has been significantly reduced, and used the example of the South Manchester PCT Board meeting, where members of the public are not given much of a chance to participate and ask questions.

<p>4.</p>	<p>Joint working with other Mental Health Trust PPI Forums</p> <p>KT showed members a draft letter to the PPI Forums for Bolton, Salford & Trafford MH Trust and Pennine Care Trust asking them to work together with the MMHSCT Forum and map the advocacy provision in their areas. The members approved this letter.</p>	<p>BHA to send letter to other MH Trust PPI Forums</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Stables closure JF gave the Forum members an update on the future of the Stables Unit at Withington Hospital. The latest letter from the Trust states that the service must close by 31st December 2004, and the building must be vacated by 1st April 2005. The building has been sold by South Manchester PCT and will be redeveloped, but the Stables service will not be continued. No new referrals are now being taken on. There will be a meeting with users of the Stables and Linda Priest on Tuesday 10th August, 12-2pm to discuss the closure. JF invited members of the PPI Forum to attend if possible. Members commented on the closure of this service and wondered if there had been any formal consultation on the closure. They decided to write a letter to the Trust asking specifically what consultation has taken place; then to look into the legal position of consultation around service closure. It was agreed that KW would check the draft of this letter on behalf of the group.</p> <p>FSO self-assessment AY mentioned that she had been sent a form to assess the FSO by the Commission. She asked whether members would like to make any comments for this form, or whether they were happy for her to fill it in on their behalf. Members agreed that AY could fill the form in, and that the support given by the FSO had been good.</p> <p>Complaints against the Trust AH raised concerns that he had been victimised by the Trust as had threatened to ban him from Trust premises. He was concerned that he would not be allowed to conduct Forum business if banned from the wards. He mentioned that he would be making a formal complaint against the Trust and would appreciate the support of the Forum.</p>	<p>BHA to write letter and check legal position</p> <p>AY to complete FSO assessment</p>

6.

Date and Time of next meeting

Members arranged the next 3 meetings as follows:

Tuesday 7th September 2004 6-8pm

Tuesday 5th October 2004 6-8pm

Tuesday 2nd November 2004 6-8pm