

**East Anglian Rehabilitation Workers meeting
held on 19 February 2016 from 10am – 3.00pm
at Forli Room, Town Hall, Peterborough**

Attendees: Karol Harrison, Debbie James, Nic Poole (nee Clark), Helen Kidd, Andrea Lloyd, Kiran Pankhania, Sharon Packer, Jayne Simonds Allen, Alice White, Shirley Tyler, Martin Borrill (for morning only).

Apologies: Peter Nutland, Paula Bird.

Areas attending: Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Peterborough and national remits.

Welcome and introductions.

Updates / Sharing information:

Nic P - Cambridgeshire: Stacey Evans is now in post permanently as Sensory Team Manager.

The group welcomed Alice: role consists of Blind Children UK / Guide Dogs, working with children in Peterborough, Hull, Nottinghamshire teams.

Andrea: now working in Norfolk sensory team.

Shirley: working from the office in Culley Court, Orton Southgate Peterborough due to the horrendous accident of a bus running into the office in Lincoln Road.

Sharon/Jayne: Northants – Olympus Care are reshaping; both are managed by an OT now. Sharon has successfully gained her Rehab Workers qualification and is now embarking on the Complex Needs BSc (Hons) Degree at BCU.

DBE: now facilitating a Deafblind Module for Rehab Workers this year at BCU, which will go towards the BSc (Hons) top up qualification, to achieve Level 6 – full degree classification. This is also available as a stand-alone module.

Discussion took place regarding Rehab Workers being managed by OT's. Alice asked if their line managers have Sensory Integration Work within their OT remit.

Discussion regarding which RW's work with children:

No: Jayne/Sharon,

Kiran and Karol: recently changed to being able to work with children – discussed awareness raising needed for referrals to reach them, currently do not have skills training in the school holidays.

Care Act, 2014: How it differs for Rehab Workers in different counties.

Question 1: How much training have people had?

Karol: 2 hrs; Shirley/Alice/Martin: none;

Andrea 1 day for the whole of Norfolk employees;

Northants: training was cancelled across the county, due to workloads. Jayne/Sharon explain the care act requirements to their manager, especially as Sharon has up to date information from her BCU training.

Cambs: 2 days training based around care packages (not relevant) They work closely with reablement to offer them VI training.

Kiran: There were introductory courses before April 2014, now emails highlight information and care act courses available, mainly about reducing care packages and enablement focus.

Question 2: Has your assessment process changed?

Northants: no change (financial: savings need to be identified at the end of the assessment – discussion took place. Felt manager's responsibility as difficult to cost how much savings are made – DJ explained there are some financial documents other RW's have explored previously that can be found via RWPN.

Shirley: no change

Andrea: have a generic assessment form that is in line with the Care Act outcomes.

Alice: children services have a standard information visit – detailing buddy dogs/Blind Children UK. All Habilitation workers look at the holistic view and depends on each request, linked into Alice's role.

Martin: no change

Cambs: initial contact is by phone by duty to identify issues, Rehab Assistant has not changed.

Peterborough: Generic duty call system, assessment hasn't changed but See and Solve now call Kiran to ask advice occasionally etc.

Question 3: Equipment issued – has it changed?

Northants: Jayne/Sharon drew up a plan for Olympus Care detailing what equipment to give out, they have a list of standard equipment now but it depends what is required.

Discussion followed regarding the Care Act details of £1000 can be used for equipment or aids, which does not highlight whether this is a one-off payment, what it can be used for and does not require a financial assessment.

Up to £1000 per item as stated in the Care Act.

Action: discussed collating information from all East Anglia RW's or a national survey to highlight successes/reasons to give out equipment/aids. DJ/KH to discuss at the RWPN meeting next month.

Question 4: Who does assessments for deafblind people?

Northants: Sharon is completing the Deafblind Module to be qualified as a specialist assessor for deafblind people.

DJ: gave an overview regarding qualifications and national views.

Norfolk: completed the 'old' level 3 deafblind qualification and complete specialist assessments.

Cambs: None – awaiting Danielle (new RW) who is about to complete deafblind specialist training.

Alice/Shirley: go out to complete assessments – DJ explained about the Level 1,2, and 3 Deafblind Training Modules completed by DBE for all Guide Dogs staff which incorporate assessments.

Well-being criteria outcomes:

KH gave out copies of the Care Act Outcome document, which has examples. Andrea explained in Norfolk the outcomes are on the form but this guide is useful and will pass it onto others.

Nic: many of the outcomes are RW's core work.

Some RW's will look at changing their assessment form to reflect the well-being outcomes.

Case Studies: two different case studies were discussed, copied from Social Care Institute for Excellence website. These seem to be misleading and it was felt that RW's already assess in this way to a much higher level.

Direct Payments:

Everyone explained that they now all refer onto social workers to complete direct payments as they can go to panel for funding. Often joint working with professionals to meet the needs.

Professional development:

DJ: discussion took place regarding Ruth Osborne's (West Sussex) PDR form and documentation, using the VI Occupational Standards – including training to meet the Care Act, RWPN Seminars/regional network meetings and awareness training for staff in their regions. This is also detailed in the Spring RWPN newsletter.

Positive response. Nic P: Main issue is that sensory team managers do not have access to training budgets.

Alice: Hab VI UK (formerly MIISE) have peer support/buddy workers and have CPD which is a working document. Alice to send details onto DJ.

RW/ROVI's model: DJ circulated West Sussex picture which details 'The Planets' – Details of everyone that may become involved within the RW role. Discussed if this was useful when explaining RW's role and training staff. Action: agenda item for next time to bring various versions.

Rehab Workers Professional Network update:

DJ handed out copies of the Newsletter. Discussed paying subscriptions and the Annual Seminar Date is 7th July 2016 in Birmingham.

Format for meetings:

Kiran felt it would be appropriate to invite OT managers to this meeting to create awareness to the RW role. Further discussion needed to how this would work in practice.

AOB:

Nic P: Has anyone become involved with electric wheelchair services declining people who are severe sight impaired? This has recently happened and a VI person requires one.

Alice explained that the Red Cross may provide one on loan.

Future speakers:

Diabetic equipment: Kiran to discuss with the representative for assistive technology in their area.

Guide Dogs: Alice and Shirley to provide an overview (agreed for the agenda for next meeting).

Future Dates:

13 May 2016 – venue to be confirmed...

19 August 2016 – Forli Room, Town Hall, Peterborough

11 November 2016 – Forli Room , Town Hall, Peterborough
