

**NOTES OF DAN MEETING
15 MAY 2008
LOCAL CARE CENTRE MOUNT GOULD**

Attending

Ray Davey
Alan Parsons
Ann Pointon
Amanda Gorringe
Holly Chilton
Ann Davey
Steve Simmons
Gaynor Southerton
Sue Jones
Frances Aquilina
Leanne Pullen
Marty Haywood
David Hovvels

Apologies

Bruce Abbott
John Fletcher

Supporting

Dawn Clarke
Chris Wetherill
Shirley Gregory (BSL interpreter)

Organisations

Nick Clarke – Reatch Centre
Alice – Occupational Therapy student
Hayley Johns – Social Work student
Wasia Shahain – Plymouth Hospital
Trust (Health)
Colebrook Housing – Pat Harvey

Speakers

Sally Parker – Primary Care Trust
Hannah Dempsey – Planning
Department (Plymouth City Council)

Speakers' summaries

Sally Parker explained she is new in post as the Patient and Public Participation lead. She said the PCT works with the public to ensure appropriate health care services are delivered. Her role is also concerned with identifying the barriers that stop access to health care.

Sally fed back the key 12 findings of a patient survey on how easy it was for patients to access their GPs.

THE TWELVE KEY FINDINGS ARE ATTACHED

DAN members raised a number of issues including:

- General lack of BSL interpreters in the city
- The need for explanations about the reasons for and the effects of medication at the time prescriptions are written
- Difficulties in identifying different pills when they tend to be the same colour, shape and size
- Lack of forward planning by health services for disabled patients who have planned admissions to hospital

Hannah Dempsey explained her work on the major consultation exercise involved with 'Your Place Your Future' planning exercise. She said that a number of planning road shows have taken place across the city inviting people to influence planning

policy for local neighbourhoods. This has included issues such as public transport, parking, design of housing, streets, shops and businesses, parks etc.

The road shows have been held in different locations such as libraries and supermarkets in different neighbourhoods.

The information from this consultation project will go to influencing long term planning over the next fifteen years.

The Highbury Trust is hosting a road show on Wednesday 18 June. Planning officers will be available from 10am until 3pm. There will be two consultation workshops, one starting at 10.30am and the other at 1.30pm.

Information and displays giving feedback and findings from all the consultation road shows throughout the city will be presented at the Guildhall on Thursday 3 July.

Hannah can offer information on how the planning process works and is happy to attend another DAN meeting to explain the process for large planning applications such as the Life Centre in Central Park.

Chris gave information on the following:

- Draft Equality Schemes from Plymouth City Council and Primary Care Trust
- A letter that Bruce sent to Plymouth City Council regarding the lack of disabled car parking spaces during the Transat event
- Hackney Vehicles consultation
- Notice of consultation event organised by PCC regarding the reporting of disablist incidents to the city council
- Draft membership form and flyer for approval
- Newsletters for Carers, LINK and Papop
- Straw poll on the suitability of using Mount Gould Local Care Centre again – most people were happy with it.

DAN DISCUSSION TOPICS

Disabled Bus Users Group

Chris fed back on a meeting that she and David Cumbers had attended with Citybus and proposed the setting up of a Disabled Bus Users Group that could bring the bus operators and disabled bus users together to improve services. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Chris.

Consultation

Chris raised the fact that she is receiving a lot of requests, mainly from Plymouth City Council and Health regarding consultation on various policy changes etc. These requests are generated by the 2005 Disability Discrimination Act, which obliges public organisations to involve disabled people in decisions that affect them.

Chris suggested that DAN members might be interested in producing a 'Consultation Contract' or Guidance Notes that could ensure:

- Disabled people have enough time to give a considered response
- That measures are taken to consult using appropriate communication methods
- That the cost of mailing out documents and feedback forms is met by the organisation or department requesting consultation
- That disabled people are supported and encouraged to participate in meaningful Decision-making processes and not just treated as a 'tick box' exercise

Ann Pointon suggested that a contract or guidance notes should be offered to the City Council's Disability Equality Scheme so that consultation requests would be consistent.

Several DAN members expressed an interest in being involved in a small working group to draft a contract or guidance notes.

NEXT MEETING OF THE DAN

**THURSDAY 19 JUNE
2pm – 4pm**

**WELCOME HALL
4 FORE STREET
DEVONPORT
PL4 4DN**