

**Mental Health Action Group
 MINUTES
 Monday 24th May 2010, 17.30 – 19.00
 Pelham Room, Brighthelm, Brighton**

Present:

Neil Holmes (Chair) – LINK Steering Group Member
 Avril Fuller – LINK Participant
 Jack Hazelgrove – LINK Participant
 Damian Lee – LINK Participant
 Tim Sayers – LINK Participant
 Ann Parsons – Threshold
 Jen Stear – Brighton & Hove City Council
 Sarah Danily – MIND

Apologies:

Robert Brown
 Juliette Oxbury – MIND
 Kat Marples – MIND
 Julie Wright – MIND
 Rachael Kenny – Sussex Partnership Trust

In attendance:

Val Young – LINK Development Worker (minutes)

Members of the Public/others:

Agenda Item No.	Item	ACTION
1.	Welcome, apologies and Introductions	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Neil explained that the main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the way forward, following on from the pilot meetings.	
2.	Overview of LINK and its remit	
	Val gave a brief overview of the LINK, explaining its background, roles and powers.	
3.	Gateway Organisations - MIND	
	Sarah Danily, Director of MIND explained that Gateway Organisations are a series of organisations funded by NHS Brighton & Hove (PCT), who work together to act as a 'Gateway' in obtaining and understanding the opinions and concerns of diverse communities. Gateway organisations also provide advocacy services. Some organisations involved are Amaze, Spectrum, MIND, Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People and 60+ Action Group. The next	

	<p>mental health Gateway meeting will be held on 9th June 12.30 – 3.30 at Conference Room, Community Base. Agenda will focus on the local plans to redesign Access & Recovery mental health services.</p> <p>Damian mentioned many ‘cross over’ issues had been previously raised at the “LIVE” project (Listening to the Voice of Experience) and suggested working together to avoid duplicating work and prioritising ‘themed’ issues at future meetings and to use the LINK as a mechanism to take things further.</p> <p>Sarah explained that the “LIVE” project hosts the quarterly public mental health Gateway meetings. Through this forum, and in many other ways, it acts as a channel for NHS Brighton & Hove, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust and other service providers to work in partnership with local people to improve mental health services. LIVE project members are people with Lived Experience of mental health issues – their own or those of people close to them. The project also delivers training to people who use and deliver Mental Health services.</p>	
4.	Planning and format of future meetings	
	<p>Neil felt that the key for future meetings is to develop a flexible approach to encourage interested members to attend and that these meetings are not a platform for statutory services, but for the public.</p> <p>Damian felt that the group should be reaching out to ‘under-represented’ groups and asked how the LINK was engaging with members of this community. Val commented that the LINK is already carrying out outreach projects, i.e. Gypsy and Traveller home visits and support groups (Alzheimer’s Society).</p> <p>Meetings will be monthly with flexible attendance, initially for six months, but with a possible extension. Neil asked attendees for their time preferences and all agreed to hold future meetings during work time (9-5).</p>	
5.	Terms of Reference	
	<p>A copy of the Terms of Reference and Protocols for LINK Action Groups was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Under the Protocols, Damian recommended that item (2) – “<i>Recommendations must be made to the Steering Group on a monthly basis</i>” and (3) “<i>Recommendations agreed by the Steering</i></p>	

	<p><i>Group will be actioned by the Host</i>, be removed from the document. Neil agreed to take this suggestion back to the Steering Group. Under item (5) <i>“issues can be referred to an Action Group by the Priorities sub group and/or via the Host”</i>, Damian asked if this is necessary and for clarification from the Host as to whether other groups are following this procedure.</p>	<p>NEIL</p> <p>VAL (referred to CS 1/6/10)</p>
6.	Implement Work Plan	
	<p>Damian, Neil and Val agreed to meet up before the next meeting to discuss and update the February Work Plan. The meeting was set for Tuesday, 1st June 4.00 – 5.00 at Brighton Junction.</p> <p>Neil suggested that in future the content of any letters to providers should be more detailed and specific about the issue.</p> <p>Some items were still outstanding on the Action Plan, in particular the issue concerning the transition from WAMHS to OPMHS. Copies to be made available for next meeting. Tim requested copies of all letters relating to this issue.</p> <p>An update and review on issues raised at previous meetings will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.</p>	<p>VAL (Meeting cancelled)</p> <p>VAL (3/6/10) VAL (1/6/10)</p>
7.	LGBT Issues – mental health services available	
	<p>Neil referred to a letter (previously circulated) dated 14th April from Arthur Law, Spectrum, regarding <i>‘Commitment to partnership work and engagement on LGBT mental health’</i>. It was questioned as to whether this was within the LINK remit and if the content of the issues raised are generic.</p> <p>It was agreed to draft a letter to PCT asking for further comment on items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Whether engagement with LGBT communities by local statutory services in relation to their mental health needs is fit for purpose (b) Whether commissioning supports outcomes to address identified LGBT mental health needs (c) Whether strategic fora and commissioning processes are biased in favour of mainstream mental health services and indirectly discriminate against the LGBT voluntary and community sector. 	<p>NEIL/VAL (7/6/10)</p>



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8.	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – Quality Report	
	Damian felt that the LINK was not currently in a position to respond to this request and therefore we should decline from commenting. It was also requested that when the Host contacted SPFT, comment is made on the short timescales involved.	HOST (7/6/10)
9.	LINK Annual Event	
	Val gave details of the Annual Event – 24 th July 11.00 – 3.00 at the Lighthouse venue in Kensington Street and asked if the Action Group would be willing to facilitate a workshop at this event. Members suggested holding their workshop between 1.30 and 2.30. Val to confirm with Host team.	VAL (2/6/10)
10.	Any Other Business (AOB)	
	<p>Neil invited new members to give a brief description of their roles and organisations and why they are interested in the MHAG.</p> <p>Jen Stear, BHCC - her main area of concern is around older people in the community being isolated and depressed and not being picked up in the system, mainly because some Community Engagement workers are not aware of all the services available. She would like to take information back to the community, as a form of information sharing. Jen is also involved in Patching Lodge and is keen to link in with providers. They are currently looking at how to develop a health and wellbeing HUB for that area.</p> <p>Ann Parsons, Threshold – her organisation offers services for women experiencing mental ill health and emotional distress. They are currently looking at how to move forward with talking therapies and looking at what works and how to monitor this. Concerned about where people go when in crisis and what is available as there are currently not ‘Drop in’ services.</p> <p>Millview Hospital, Hove – to be carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>Attach directions to Brighton Junction with Agenda</p>	VAL

Thank you for attending the LINK Mental Health Action Group.
Next meeting: Thursday, 1st July 11.00 – 12.30 at Brighton Junction, 1a Isetta Square, 35 New England Street, Brighton BN1 4GQ
For apologies and assistance please contact: val@cvsectorforum.org.uk 01273 810235