



Service User and Carer Participation



Meeting of the Service User Network held on Monday the 6th July 2009

There were 7 people present including the Service User and Carer Participation Officer (SUCPO).

The notes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

The SUCPO discussed with the group what they wanted from the Network; suggestions were put forward to arrange trips out and an idea to arrange a special event which might encourage more people to attend such as an open day with food and activities.

The Network expressed that they were happy with the venue and the time of the meetings and highlighted that in the past venues had been changed and times were altered and this had little affect on the numbers of people attending.

It was noted that recently the numbers attending the network had improved slightly than previous months.

Coity Clinic Open Day

An open day is to be held on the 8th July between 4pm and 7pm for inpatients and their carers. Local organisations such as Hafal, Gofal, Mental Health Matters Wales, ARC and the Wallich have been invited to set up stalls and provide information on the services they provide. There will also be a buffet, refreshments, activities and a raffle. The open day is going to become a regular event.

The Network thought the open day was a great idea and thought that this would be of interest to those who had recently been discharged from Coity Clinic as well as inpatients.

Psychological Therapy

Discussions took place about the use of talking therapies such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). Some of the group discussed how they know of people who have paid privately for such therapies because of the long waiting list in the Bridgend area. The network suggested that it would be useful to find out more about CBT and suggested arranging a trained counsellor to come and talk about CBT and other Psychological Therapies.

Action: Sian to arrange a counsellor to come to the Network.

Employment

Discussions took place about the issues people face when returning to employment. The Network acknowledged that there is a lot of support to help people into employment initially but felt there is less support once people are employed to help people remain in employment. The SUCPO thought it would be useful for future meetings to invite someone to the network to talk about Employment Services to gain a greater understanding and clarification of what support is provided.

Substance Misuse

The Network expressed concern about the prevalence of people with Substance Misuse and Mental Health problems in the Bridgend area. The Network felt there were limited facilities for people with these issues. The SUCPO suggested inviting someone along from the Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) to find out what services are provided.

Joint Mental Health Strategy Planning Team (JMHSPT)

The last meeting took place on the 12th June; one of the members of the network attended this meeting, he was thanked for his contribution. The meeting discussed issues such as the modernisation of Mental Health Services and NHS restructuring and targets for 2009/10. It was also discussed about the future of the Mental Health Planning Process for Bridgend; concerns had been raised about how the restructuring of the Trust will affect the Planning Teams. Issues were also raised about the Planning Team becoming disjointed and particular issues about the Co - Occurring Sub Group.

Dave Roberts from Neath Port Talbot LHB attended the JMHSPT to talk about the Repatriation Programme. It was requested by the Network that it would be a good idea for him to come to the SUN meetings to discuss this.

Action: Sian to arrange for Dave Roberts to come to the Network.

THE NEXT SERVICE USER NETWORK WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 3RD AUGUST AT COED PARC LIBRARY, PARK STREET, BRIDGEND AT 4.30 - 6.30