



HEREFORDSHIRE'S  
LEARNING DISABILITY  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
*everything about us but not without us*



## Meeting-LDPB

Date/Time-10<sup>th</sup> December, 1:30pm-4pm

Venue: Fownhope Room, Microsoft Teams

<b>Attendees:</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation / Role</b>
Mike Cook	Chief Officer, Echo
Tracy Crum	Chair, Echo
Manny Jhavar-Gill	Head of Service – Living Well (Adults Commissioning)
Laura Sirrell	Commissioner- Living Well (Adults Commissioning)
Paul Choppen	Partnership Board Assistant, Living Well Community Wellbeing, Herefordshire Council
Rose Hunt	Herefordshire Mencap
Chris Beckingham-Paul	Managing Director, Aspire Living
Ian Harper	Service Quality Director, Aspire Living
Barbara Brown	Executive Assistant to Ian Harper, Service Quality Director, Aspire Living
Jack Caine	Programme Lead for LD & Autism, ICB
Chris Smith	Manager, Envirobility
Sean Ladd	Manager, Star College
Amy Chandler	Healthwatch Herefordshire
Cllr Carole Gandy	Herefordshire Council
Zakia Lounghurst	Service Director - Adult Social Care and Housing, Community Wellbeing, Herefordshire Council

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation / Role</b>
Paul Scott	Trustee Herefordshire Mencap
Rob Gorle	Parent Carer
Gill Gorle	Parent Carer
Ginnie Jaques	Shared Lives Manager, Herefordshire Council
Ian Harper	
Hilary Hall	Corporate Director Community Wellbeing, Herefordshire Council
Cllr Johnathon Lester	Herefordshire Council
Kath Bird	Head of Operations & Development – Central Region, Walsingham Support
Kathryn Wood	Speakeasy Now
Roz Pither	Head of Additional Needs, Children & Families, Herefordshire Council
Max Duelli	Family Support Co-ordinator & Deputy DSL, Marches Family Network

Name	Organisation / Role
Rachel Oakley	Walsingham Support
Marie Bridgewater	Hate Crime Officer, West Mercia

## Welcome and Introduction

Tracy welcomed everyone, and asking members to introduce themselves.

## Previous Minutes

Name	Actions	Detail	Update
Paul Choppen	Action 1	To invite Councillor Gandy and Councillor Lester to a future meetings.	Paul invited both Councillor Gandy and Councillor Lester. Counsellor Gandy was able to attend.
Mike Cook, Paul Choppen & All	Action 2	Mike will send the updated Terms of Reference to Paul to circulate to members, he also asked members to suggest any relevant organisations and contacts within the representative areas.	Mike sent the updated Terms of Reference to Paul who circulated to members. Paul has received no suggestions from members.
Paul Choppen	Action 3	To circulate the job description for the Vice Chair position once it's been finalised.	Paul circulated this to members, however, has received no interested parties as present.
Hillary Hall	Action 4	To share the contact details of John Burgess, who is leading the work on the Carers Strategy with Chris Smith.	Paul shared the contact details of John Burges with Chris.

## Introduction New Commissioning Team Manny Jhawa-Gill (Head of Service, Living Well)

### & Laura Sirrell (Commissioning Officer

Manny and Laura introduced themselves. Manny spoke about the commissioning team restructure. She spoke about the new teams Starting Well (children's commissioning and quality assurance), Living Well (working age adults 18-65 ) and Aging Well (65 and over).

**Action 1** Manny said she would share the new structure with members of the board.

Manny informed members that Zoe Richards is the Head of Service, Starting Well and Leona Marsh will be the Head of Service for Aging Well, when she starts on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

They are advertising for Glen Crosier's (Senior Commissioning Officer former post in the new year. Manny and Laura will cover the position for the time being. Manny also discussed how within Living Well they are looking into updating the distribution lists and where who best to point people too.

Mike asked how the social work teams a split.

**Action 2-** Zakia Loughead (Service Director - Adult Social Care and Housing Community Wellbeing) said she would share the phase one restructure with the group.

Zakia is going to start working in the new year with her management team on phase two of the restructure. Looking at whether the teams alignment are fit for purpose and resilient enough to cover absences.

Zakia spoke how they currently have complex specialist teams, safeguarding function, amp and the dols team, north and south teams, as well as discharge and assess teams.

Mike as head of Hat (Hereford Activities Together) which is a group of day activity providers, mentioned he had been involved in a meeting to discuss the opportunity for social workers to meet with the providers under the group and also partake in training to inform and upskill on what is available in the county.

Rose spoke about wanting to have social workers attend future Hear Our Voices events, and was unsure who best to contact.

Zakia mentioned this was tricky as they have currently issues with retainment of staff. However she suggested members could contact her with details of the events that they would like social workers to attend in future. She can then discuss this with her leadership team to decide the best way forward.

Zakia's email address is: [zakia.loughead@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:zakia.loughead@herefordshire.gov.uk)

### **Update on Learning Disability Partnership Board Mike Cook / Tracy Crum**

Mike discussed the updated Terms of Reference and asked if members were happy with it. Ginnie pointed out that Shared Lives was missing from the list of organisation/ representations. Sean suggested Education/ SEND should also be on the same list.

Rose pointed out the lack of representation from family carers on the board. Jack Caine mentioned that the ICB were looking to recruit family carer within the ICB (Integrated Care Board). He mentioned they had a list of projects and meeting that they are going to support and remunerate those family carers for attending. Jack spoke about the opportunity for the LDPB and Herefordshire Council can engage those same carers to attend groups like this.

Nick also said Carer Links were happy to support the board with getting more family carers to attend the board.

### **Appointment of Vice Chair Tracy Crum**

Tracy spoke about the need to appoint a vice chair for the board, preferably one this time with a learning disability. Mike mentioned the need to have someone to take the pressure off Tracy and be able to cover in her absence. The role had been vacant since John Gorman (former Commissioning Officer within Herefordshire Council) had retired.

Paul had shared the job description for the role with board members, but no interested parties had come forward so far. Manny suggested looking outside of the board for interest. Laura asked

Paul and if they would be happy to go and have discussions with participants from some of service providers on the Vice Chair role.

Sean invited Paul and Tracy to speak to the student group at the Star College about the opportunity. Rose and Chris also suggested advertising the role to participants of Hear Our Voices and Envirobility respectively.

**Action 3-** Paul Choppen, Tracy Crum and Laura Sidwell to discuss Vice Chair role and new board members attending Star College, Envirobility and communicating with Hear Our Voices.

**Review the LD Strategy and Action Plan Mike Cook / Tracy Crum**

Tracy stressed the need for a subgroup to review and update the Learning Disability Strategy. Sighting the current document as being overly long, full of jargon, the use of outcomes within the implementation plan, there being too many columns, text being too small and dense. The implementation plan is also out of date and parts of it are no longer relevant.

Rose suggested potentially using AI services such as ChatGPT to condense and simplify the strategy, making it more easier to understand.

Ian from declared that Aspire was happy to offer their services to lead a subgroup to review and update the Learning Disability Strategy. Tracy asked members to declare if they like to be part of this subgroup.

**Members that put themselves forward to be part of the subgroup**

Herefordshire Council	Other organisations	Nominated
Manny Jhawar-Gill (Herefordshire Council)	Chris Smith (Envirobility)	Zakia nominated Rachel Harrison Ball (Head of Adult Social Care Operations)
Laura Sirrell (Herefordshire Council)	Chris Beckingham-Paul	
Paul Choppen ( Herefordshire Council)	Rose Hunt (Herefordshire Mencap)	

Michelle Billings and Ginnie Jaques said they would ask members of the Community Learning Disability Team and Shared Lives respectively if they were interested in being part of the subgroup.

**Action 4-**Chris Beckingham Paul said he would arrange the first meeting of the subgroup.

Laura asked Paul to share the learning disability strategies from Coventry, Worcestershire and Solihull she had collated with Chris Beckingham-Paul.

A discussion ensued on some of the issues with the Strategy and changes to any new strategy that need to made, which included:

- The need for a section on profound and multiple learning disabilities
- The lack of baseline data and performance indicators.
- The need for a shorter more eye-catching version of the existing Learning Disability strategy, that is detailed but still easy to understand.
- The need to acknowledge and document the difficulty in looking back and assessing why objectives within the implementation plan ceased being worked on.

- The need to acknowledge what current progress that has been made and what meaningful actions still align with our current goals.
- An updated or new Strategy needs to have clear objectives, clear lines of responsibility, clear timelines regular 6-12 monthly reviews on progress

Members then discussed whether the existing Strategy needs to be updated or rebooted. The current Strategy has only has 3 years remaining (2018-2028). Group generally agreed that the current Strategy probably needs to be replaced.

Cllr Gandy noted that if there was a substantial change to the strategy then it would need to approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board and go to Cabinet before being signed off by herself. If only minor changes are made to the existing document it maybe be able to just be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board and then signed off by herself as cabinet member.

## **A.O.B**

### **Date of Joint LDPB Meeting**

The Joint Learning Disability Partnership Board was originally planned for the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, from 2pm-4pm at venue to be confirmed in Worcestershire and also accessible via Microsoft Teams.

Due to issues finding an acceptable date for the pre-meeting to set out the agenda for this meeting, the initial date is likely to been pushed back to Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of February. Aimme Davies (Senior Commissioning Officer, Worcestershire County Council) is currently seeking feedback on a proposed date for the pre-meeting.

Zakia recommended Rachael Harrison Ball be invited to future learning disability partnership board meetings.

### **Herefordshire Mencap-Rose Hunt**

Hear Our Voices next event is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May between 9:45-2:30pm.

Three of Herefordshire Mencap Trustees met with Ellie Chowns the MP for North Herefordshire regarding progress she has made on behalf of Herefordshire Mencap's Bus Pass Anytime campaign.

This is a campaign to stop bus pass use being limited between Monday and Friday from 9:30am-11pm. They would like bus passes to be able to be used 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They have had feedback from the two ministers for Herefordshire, however no response yet from Paul Waker (CEO, Herefordshire Council).

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of January two of Herefordshire Mencap's participants with lived experience have been invited to go to the Houses of Parliament alongside their two MPs to discuss what is concerning them in Herefordshire. Ellie Chowns has confirmed she is happy to do with them, however they are yet to receive a response from Jessy Norman.

### **Our News Our Views**

Tracy discussed how the Our New Our Views will be potentially folding by the end of January 2025 because the current editors have decided to step down.

Mike asked for expression of interest if a provider would be interested on taking over the project, or knowns of people who may be interested in getting involved with the newsletter to contact himself or Our News Our Views.

Our News Our Views email address is: [ournewsourviews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ournewsourviews@hotmail.co.uk)

Mike Cook's email address is: [mike.cook@echoherefordshire.co.uk](mailto:mike.cook@echoherefordshire.co.uk)

**Action 5-** Mike Cook to share expressions of interest for vacant positions on Our News Our Views with Paul Choppen who will share with members.

As the project current stands four to six participants currently pool their person budgets to help run the newsletter and buy in their own support.

Chris Beckingham Paul said Aspire will be submitting a expression of interest.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 from 1:30-3:30pm Fownhope Room, Plough Lane Offices, HR4 0LE

### Actions

Name	Actions	Detail
Manny J-hawar-Gill	Action1	The Living Well Commissioning Re-structure chart with Paul, who can share with members.
Zakia Loughead / Paul Choppen	Action 2	To share phase 1 Adult Social Care Restructure with Paul Choppen who can send to board members
Paul Choppen, Tracy Crum and Laura Sidwell	Action 3	To discuss Vice Chair role and new board members attending Star College, Envirobility and communicating with Hear Our Voices.
Chris Beckingham Paul	Action 4	Dates for the Learning Disability Sub Group to be sent by from Aspire.
Mike Cook , Tracy Crum, Paul Choppen	Action 5	To share expressions of interest for vacant positions on Our News Our Views with Paul Choppen who will share with members.