



Camden Carers' Voice meeting

Minutes – 16 February 2017, 10.30 am – 12.30pm
Argenta House, Aspern Grove, Belsize Park, NW3 2AB

<p>Attendance</p>	<p>28 carers Co-chairs: Jacky Spigel, Kate Harwood Presentation/ Guest Speakers: Cllr Georgia Gould Julia Cassidy, Interim Head of Transformation & Performance, Camden Council Chantale Burris, Senior Assessment Officer, Camden Council Cllr Lorraine Revah Allegra Lynch, Chief Executive, Camden Carers Service Sharon Hammond, Working for Carers, CCS Alison Bowman, Royal Free Hospital Moira Wilkinson, Carers Trust Philippa Russell, Engagement & Outreach, CCS & C404</p>
	<p>The co-chairs were introduced and attendees introduced themselves. Alison Bowman from the Royal Free highlighted a questionnaire she had placed on seats. Carers were invited to fill them out and return them via Philippa.</p>
<p>Guest Speakers</p>	<p>Cllr Georgia Gould introduced herself as cabinet member for young people, adult social care and health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Gould represents the needs of carers in Camden and recognises the love and care that carers give. She acknowledged that there is a funding crisis in adult social care and the number of acronyms makes information more difficult to understand • The Adult social care budget has been halved and with people living longer, this is very challenging. Both the NHS and local Councils are facing crisis • Sustainability and Transformation Plan comprises 44 plans around the country to bring about more integrated social care. This will bring together adult social care, local commissioning groups, hospitals, GP practices, Acute hospitals and Trusts • The North Central London STP covers 5 local councils - Camden, Islington, Barnet, Haringey and Enfield to create a joint plan. The saving needed is £850 million with a gap of £300 million • The STP plans were not openly discussed. Camden is the first borough to publish and invite open consultation to the Plan. There is a need for transparency, political openness and consultation with local groups and decision makers • There are planned changes in home care delivery with home care agencies based in the neighbourhood with GP and district nurses to encourage a better standard of work and build up neighbourhood links

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with voluntary sector organisations. So far pilot schemes have worked well focusing on early intervention and prevention • The Plan aims to move people from hospitals into the community but greater investment into community care is needed. It is important to protect the users and carers and for people to be aware of health changes • It was noted that the Steering Group made a deputation about the STP and has raised the importance of hearing the voice of the carers <p>Question & Answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was raised that psychiatric wards had been closed with people cared for in the community and that hasn't worked. Cllr Gould recognised concerns and noted that there is more information to be circulated • A carer asked how health care agencies are regulated. Cllr Gould said any complaints should go through the Care Quality Commission who rate health care providers and any safeguarding issues should be reported to Camden Cllr Gould emphasised that they want to work with smaller organisations and build up the staff with local people, paying the living wage. They have signed up to the ethical care charter and travel costs included in wage • A carer noted that a lot of local neighbourhood cohesion has been destroyed through commissioning and housing and support is needed. Cllr Gould invites carers to feedback the issues to her so they can more closely work with services • A carer who recently lost her mother, asked that former carers should also be consulted. Cllr Gould thanked her and agreed carers should still be involved • Cllr Gould noted a number of good pilots in Camden such as the Better Care Fund, Team Around the Practice, Work Together teams and Aging Better – community Connectors • Communication issues – there is a lack of involvement with carers in top level planning when carers know so much about caring. Cllr Gould agreed that both unpaid and paid care is undervalued. She values Camden Carers Service as representing the voice of the carer. <p>Cllr Gould was thanked for making time to come to the CCV meeting.</p>
<p>Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Julia Cassidy, Interim Head of Transformation & Performance and Chantale Burris, Senior Assessment Officer were thanked for coming to talk about financial assessments and day care centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day services – there has been an 18% reduction in use of day services. Proposal is to have one large centre in Kilburn, Kingsgate for specialist dementia care. This would mean closure of Charlie Ratchford, Raglan and Netherwood. Greenwood Place will be built in Kentish Town with specialist services for people with learning disabilities. This replace Mayford, Peperfield and New Shoots. It would also include the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) • Financial contributions – for people with savings of more than £23,250 they would pay a one off fee of £300 plus £15 per month administration fee. Transport will be charged at £5 per journey with a cap of £50 per month. • The weekly charge of £27.50 was raised and whether this is taken from DLA .

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers raised extreme concern that the very vulnerable are being penalised and that they will have no money for any social activities at all • Charlie Ratchford is likely to be closed down and a Carers Hub created. • Carers raised the issue of people who are physically or mentally unwell having to travel for a long period of time to get to the day centre which is wholly unsatisfactory • Carers were urged to fill out the surveys – paper copies were circulated. The online link: http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/social-care-and-health/about-social-care/asc-changes.en <p>Julia and Chantale were thanked for their presentation.</p>
Carer Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Members Reference Group – the Learning Disability Forum has been disbanded and people with learning disabilities have lost this valuable space to talk. Carers urge that their views are taken into account with the CIL particularly if it is a consortium that takes on the running of the centre. • Dementia Group – a report with recommendations re Camden’s care home system was presented to Dementia Strategy Group • Housing and Social Care Scrutiny panel – CCV Steering group are submitting evidence and carers are welcome to offer experience of what has worked and what has not worked
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new Steering Group members Janet Cabot and Constantine Louis, introduced themselves and were endorsed by the CCV members • People were thanked for coming and welcomed to stay for a light lunch
Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next CCV meeting - Thursday 27 April 2017, 10.30-12.30pm at Argenta House