

Camden Carers' Voice meeting

5^h April 2016 , 10.30 am – 1pm

Argenta House, Aspern Grove, Belsize Park, NW3 2AB

<p>Attendance</p>	<p>9 carers</p> <p>Chair: Bob Dowd Supporting Families Manager at Centre 404 Presentation/ Guest Speaker – Ian Smith Department of work and pensions.</p>	
<p>Agenda and Matters Arising</p>	<p>Attendees acknowledged the importance of Housing Bill having a higher profile. Members felt there is not enough media attention on the matter. However, The Camden Journal and The Ham and High are advertising public meetings about the Housing Bill. Pat Callaghan to attend any meetings re: housing Bill.</p> <p>Housing Associations have gone along with the government's proposals. Every Housing Association property sold, the council have to sell one of their properties, this will reduced all housing stock.</p>	
<p>Terms of Reference</p>	<p>The Constitution of the Steering Group will be looked at the July 14th meeting which is the next meeting as attendance was low this meeting due to reminders not going out to attendees.</p>	
<p>Carers feedback</p>	<p>Ongoing saga of Taxi Cards City Fleet concerned that they are not being used. Their solutions id to increase Taxi Cards by 120 – this is not a solution. As you can book black cabs in advance but they are not guaranteed.</p> <p>Camden CCG's – what are they doing in terms of supporting and investing in carers? They need to identify carers needs and how they can get help. Need to look at Carers expenses. HIVE in Swiss Cottage is a good support for young carers.</p> <p>Carers should be subsidised. In the same way NHS staff is. E.g. hospital canteen. You can gat 50% off London transport travel.</p> <p>To be eligible for a Bus & Tram Discount photocard you must be: Living in a London borough and Aged between 18 and 60 and Receiving Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance*, or Employment and Support Allowance and</p>	<p>Cllr Richard Cotton to look into this matter.</p>

	<p>Getting no other free or discounted travel</p> <p>Go to : https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/adult-discounts-and-concessions/bus-and-tram-discount</p> <p>Anyone who has issues/complaints about a care agency the pathway is to report this with Care Quality Commission www.cqc.org.uk.</p> <p>Top tip – if complaining direct to a care agency ensure you cc in all the all branches and head office.</p> <p>Bob Dowd advertised the Centre 404 M & S sale on the 9th April @C404.</p> <p>Nick carers has volunteered help for any activities.</p> <p>Waitrose has been recommended as a company that donates food, which could be good for events.</p>	
Vacant Post	<p>There is a current vacant post for the Camden Engagement Worker, this is going advert in the very near future. It will be advertised in the Guardian Newspaper.</p>	
Guest Speaker Ian Smith	<p>Ian Smith Borough Relationship manager - Islington Department for Work and Pensions</p> <p>A presentation was given by the Department of Work and Pensions, particularly regarding DLA being replaced by PIP (Personal Independence Payment). Letters will be sent out to all claimants – PLESASE DO NOT IGNORE THESE LETTERS to ensure the transfer over PIP goes smoothly.</p> <p>Content of Ian’s talk will be made available in near future.</p> <p>After discussions included the benefits of PIP, which is a points based system seems to be fairer for those with Mental Health issues and those with a learning disability.</p> <p>There are 12 areas of someone’s activities/ life that PIP assesses. Each part looks at: How safely it can be carried out To what standard Can it be done repeatedly Can it be done in a reasonable time.</p>	
Next meeting	<p>14th July</p>	
Dates for future meetings	<p>2016 dates: 6th October, 1st December All meetings: 10:30am - 1pm Argenta House, 1 Aspern Grove, London, NW3 2AB</p> <p>Refreshments from 10:00am. A light lunch will also be provided.</p>	