

Camden Carers' Voice meeting

18th Feb 2016 , 10.30 am – 1pm

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

<p>Attendance</p>	<p>36 carers</p> <p>Chair: Bob Dowd Supporting Families Manager at Centre 404 Councillor Pat Callaghan Cabinet Member for Housing Tulip Siddiq MP for Hampstead and Kilburn</p>	
<p>Agenda and Matters Arising</p>	<p>Bob introduced the agenda. Read out Code of Conduct</p>	
<p>Terms of Reference</p>	<p>We went through the final amendments to the Terms of Reference. They are now agreed.</p>	
<p>Carers feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback given on recent meetings. <p>Mental Health There is a 5 North London Consortium 4 mental health service. Carers haven't been involved in this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Quality Commission Standards <p>Taxi Card/mobility scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camden Mobility Forum <p>Discussed Freedom pass and Taxi Cards. City Fleet cannot guarantee a ride. Service does not deliver yet claims 96% of users have given positive feedback Greater London Authority is responsible for accessible transport. Problems with Dial a Ride as booking system doesn't work, 8 Carers said they have stopped using it.</p>	<p>Issue needs to be taken forward. GLA needs to be pressurised.</p>
<p>Advocacy</p>	<p>Those with the highest Support Needs are the most marginalised group. Carers have been asking for Advocacy project for this group but have been told that it would be too expensive. Discussed issues faced by this group. Professionals do not recognise carers as advocates.</p> <p>Carers save the government £119 billion per year.</p> <p>Camden has signed up to Mental Health and Triangle of Care which promotes better local strategic involvement of carers and families in the care planning and treatment of people with mental ill-health. But carers haven't been involved.</p>	
<p>Councillor /</p>	<p>Pat Callaghan Cabinet Member for Housing.</p>	

<p>Housing</p>	<p>Pat lead the discussion on the new Housing Bill currently going through Parliament. The main points are:</p> <p>Discussed “Right to Buy” for social housing. Government will be offering £103,000 discount to tenants, councils will subsidise this by selling off their high cost social housing. “Pay to Stay” where there is a household income of £40,000 will have to pay "market or near market rents. Introduction of the 2-5 years tenancy. Starter Homes programme are unaffordable and don't work. Help to Buy and Shared Ownership initiatives also don't work in Camden/London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relying on The House of Lords to make changes to the bill. • Media outlets are now starting to look at the issue. <p>The Housing bill will have a knock on effect on services as workers will not be able to afford London. We need more clarity on this situation so we can understand the agenda so we can act.</p> <p>Discussed that Section 106 money is not being used in local area. This is money that developers of larger sites pay to the council to reduce the impact of the development. For example, Section 106 money is used to make improvements to highways, parks, public transport and schools.</p>
<p>MP Tulip Siddiq</p>	<p>Parliament needs to recognise how carers contribute financially – Carers save huge amounts of money. Mental Health is now on the agenda Jeremy Corbyn cares about mental health push to identify young people at risk of developing mental health issues. London Mayor Election coming up. Tip – get candidate to pledge what they will do before elected.</p> <p>MP's personal priority is accessible public transport. Only one in four tube stations have wheelchair access. 38 degrees campaign RE: Attendance Allowance – There is a proposal to reduce the amount of money that is paid for this benefit – further info at - https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/attendance-allowance-abolished</p> <p>Bob Dowd at Centre 404 did some work calculating cost in terms of what carers of people with learning disabilities save the council – this work could be built on.</p> <p>Tulip asked carers present if they would like to have a tour of the House of Commons, the carers were very excited with this invitation. Tulip will let Bob know some dates and then it will be advertised to carers</p> <p>70% of Camden council budget is a “hand out” from central government. Core services are now in real trouble. New discount card for carers has been approved should arrive April 16.</p>

Next meeting	<p>Constitution of the Steering Group – proposed that this is the lead item on next agenda.</p> <p>Volunteers wanted to join steering group to inform the content of Camden Carers Voice. (CCV)</p> <p>CCV also wished to be notified when the new facilitator is appointed from Centre 404.</p>
Dates for future meetings	<p>2016 dates: 5th April, 14th July, 6th October, 1st December</p> <p>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>