



EASTERN REGION BRAIN INJURY FORUM

ERBIF MINUTES

of meeting on

Wednesday 24th June 2009

At Taylor Vinters, Cambridge

Attendees: Andrew Bateman (AB), Janet Luck (JL), Gill White (GW), William Challis (WC), Angela Beric (AXB), Emma Truin (EJT), Simon Davis, Justina Molloy, Ruth Booy, Janet Luck, Mike Hope, Sarah Ramsay, Kathy Hughes, Diane Robinson, Alice Everett, Michael Bisong, Doreen Marsden and Sue Stoten.

1 Matters arising

- 1.1 Andrew Bateman, Clinical Manager and Director of Research at Oliver Zangwill Centre, Ely provided a presentation to the Group of "Measuring symptoms after brain injury".
- 1.2 AB then updated the Forum on the Evelyn Project. A Clinical Psychologist had been recruited and she would start work in September 2009. A small team including a research assistant would be recruited to assist her. There would be a team of six who would be carrying out research on service delivery. Furthermore a new project is starting called the CLAHRC involving a major award from the DoH (£10,000,000 approx). The University of Cambridge Engineering Design Centre, The Judge Institute and the research team based in the Department of Psychiatry will be carrying out the research. There are several research themes, in adolescence, adult and old age and within adult health, they would be looking at adults with learning difficulties and ABI. The research project is funded for a five year period and will be looking at past patients' experiences and future outcomes. By the end of the project they want to have a clearer idea of what services are good and what are not.
- 1.3 Janet Luck told the Forum members that she would be stepping down as Chair and that Andrew Bateman had kindly agreed to be the new Chair. This would be a two year position and he would be supported by the Steering Group with this role.

- 1.4 There was then an update from the ABIFs who were represented at the meeting. Gill White of Headway, Essex would be Chair for the Essex ABIF. She said that they had had their second meeting which had had a disappointing number of people attend. She confirmed that their meetings are open to carers and family.
- 1.5 William Challis of Optua, representing Suffolk ABIF, told the meeting that SuffABIF is not as yet following Essex in its formal structure but that what was formerly a meeting of professionals was now encouraging participation from clients and families. The forum has primarily been working on populating the interactive pathway being developed by Optua UK and Templehead. WC is presenting the pathway to the Eastern Head Injury Group in July. If Professor Pickard and the original authors of the rehabilitation map the document is based on were supportive, it was intended that the map for Suffolk would be publicised in the autumn, after which the template for mapping would be available for use in other areas.
- 1.6 AXB updated the Forum in relation to the Cambridge Group. She explained that it was not a Cambridge ABIF. A group had been set up to map the services available in the Cambridgeshire region. This had been presented to Professor Pickard and the Eastern Head Injury Group and as a result of this there was some further work that needed to be carried out before it was complete. A directory would then be produced and available for distribution.
- 1.7 Mike Hope of Optua and Templehead said that a solicitor for Cozens Hardy solicitors, who has been one of the instigators of the Norfolk special Interest Group, was hoping to continue efforts to set up a Norfolk ABIF. MH also said that he thought it was important that the ABIFs were open to families, people with ABI and carers.

2 Update on UKABIF

JL confirming that people had been provided with leaflets from UKABIF detailing their next meeting. MH said that there were now 18 ABI Forums across the country and that Chloe Hayward of UKABIF was encouraging Forums to feed information back to her.

3 AOB

EJT thanked JL for setting up the Forum and her hard work and enthusiasm in keeping it running.

15.07.09