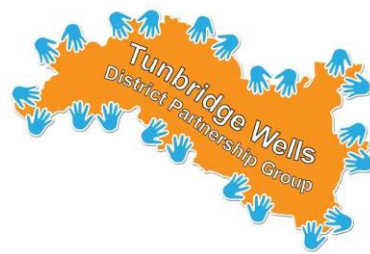




Speaking Up Group

"By people with learning disabilities for people with learning disabilities"



Minutes

29th July 2010



People who were there:



Helen Kevan (Chair)

Chris Good

Chris Perry (Access Group Rep)

James Burt (Advocacy Partners)

Vicky Lawford (VAWK)

Richard Wilson (Kent Police)

Lisa Till

Carol Morris (Advocacy Partners)

Ian Kemp (TWDPG)

What happened?



Helen started the group off with telling the group where the fire exits, toilets where and what is going to happen. Then everyone went around the table and introduced themselves and said one thing they like doing.



Item 1 –

Why we are here and what do you want to get from this group?



Chris G said about representatives coming from other speaking up groups (e.g. day services)

The group agreed that it should be about issues and problems in and around Tunbridge Wells.



Richard – dealing with transport problems and being able to tell the police. For him personally, to meet more people and to find out what issues are important to them. Maybe also have PCSOs (police community support officer) here.

Chris P is here as a Co-Chair of Tunbridge Wells District Partnership group and as the Access Group representative.



Item 2 –

Meeting and venue:

- When?
- Where?
- What time is good for you to meet?



Helen – sadly some people cannot come as they are busy on one day or during the day.

Chris P - maybe a better response in an evening meeting

Vicky – people at day services may have some support in the evening so should be able to come. Transport could be a problem though.



Action Point: Vicky Lawford to look into transport for the Speaking Up Group; with costs, issues and options.

Richard – what advertising has been done?



A group for people with disabilities run by people with disabilities.



You have a lot to say.
We want you to be heard and have a voice.



So we have created a Speaking Up Group!
Open to everyone who has a disability

Check out our website:

www.twdpa.org/our-work/speaking-up-group.html



Support by:

www.twsps.co.uk



Ian – a flyer has been created and Helen wrote a letter, both of which has been advertised in the libraries, on the web, emailed and posted around.

Vicky – maybe a personal visit to places such as the Drop In etc would mean other people will come? Or maybe a video advert?

James – is happy to advertise to his clients and people he meetings around Tunbridge Wells



Action Point: Ian Kemp to send James Burt information and flyer on the Speaking Up Group.



Vicky also suggested we find out for how many people transport is a problem and then maybe get a mini-bus with a volunteer driver.

Helen asked is it better to meet during the day or during the evening.

A vote was held and the group agreed to meeting during the evening.



It was then agreed to meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:30pm to 8pm.

The group discussed looking at having either dinner or just puddings. This will be looked at more at the next group meeting.



Item 3 –

People to volunteer to help Helen to organise and arrange these meetings.

Lisa volunteered to do some cooking/helping with the food and Helen also said she would help.



Vicky talked to the group about a volunteer group being based at VAWK that would create video minutes, edited with pictures and the key words. Vicky is looking for a grant for this software.

Chris P said also could be used for a Speaking Up Group video newsletter.

Links needs to be looked at with other groups such as West Kent College or Compaid.



Item 4 –

Break for 10 minutes



Item 5 –

Open discussion about concerns and issues important you, and what you would like to discuss at the next meeting.

Vicky and Chris G told the group about trouble a day service user had who is in a wheel chair coming into Tunbridge Wells town centre:

“A person who uses a wheelchair was been driven from the Pagoda centre into central Tunbridge Wells and they struggled finding a space for the mini-bus with space behind to get the ramp out and down. They found a space of Calverley Road (outside Iceland and Blockbusters) but once they had got her down and out of the mini-bus they found there were no drop curbs around. This lady, with a supporter to help her and warn the cars, have to travel a long way down Calverley Raod to get to the nearest dropped curb. This lady was not happy and it was dangerous, some drivers did not see her and only noticed her supported. As she uses an electric wheel chair it was too heavy for her supporters to lilt or lift her up the curb.”



Action Point: Vicky Lawford to email Ian Kemp the pictures she took. Ian Kemp to pass on the report with pictures to Chris Perry (to take to the access group) and Richard Wilson (to look at it from the Police side).

Helen talked about staff at shops not address the person with a disability but rather their supporter.

The group talked about training, making a DVD or maybe a poster. Lisa also mentioned the ‘Talk’ DVD made by the Human Rights Commission. TWDPG has a copy and maybe could be combined with a DVD and some work made by the Speaking Up Group.

Next Meeting



Wednesday 15th September 2010

6:30pm – 8pm

St John’s Church, St John’s Road, Tunbridge Wells