

1 **Welcome and Apologies**

Chair of Parent Care Voice Sheridan Butterfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Notes of meeting held 20 May 2011 and matters arising**

Sue agreed that the wording of last minutes relating to Short Breaks Database was confusing as the site has never been known as shortbreaks. Break Out is a much better name for this facility.

Green Paper on SEN and Education – Sue Black reported that she submitted a response to the green paper but that it was delayed till the 4th July, due to email problems.

The Outbase event will now be held in September.

Carers Charter is moving on a pace with a 1st draft coming out in late July. The Charter will be available in a variety of formats when completed.

3 **Update on Review of Services for Disabled Children**

The 'Task and Finish Group' needs longer to consider the findings of the review and allow Education, which was not included in the original review, time to catch up and comment. PCV is involved in these meetings and a further one is planned for 14/7/11. We are not sure if this will be the last one.

Parent Carers raised the perceived lack of staff, support and competence in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, (CAMS), which is now the responsibility of 2gether. Will 2gether improve as a result of this review? It was noted that 2gether are not involved in the review. Jacqui undertook to raise this at the next meeting.

The work of the Task and Finish Group will now be fed back to Parent Carers at two events on

Friday 16 September at Point 4 in Hereford and

Wednesday 21 September at Westfield School in Leominster

4 **Progress on Parent Carer Voice Work Plan 2011**

Update on the PCV Work Plan provoked a lively discussion about the progress made to date and the long way still to go.

Worries were expressed about cuts to the numbers of Social Workers who carry out Core assessments. A Carer at the meeting reported that the cuts were already being felt, having been told that they no longer require a named Social Worker for their child and to call the Duty Social Worker instead. When they tried to access this support there was no Duty Social Worker available.

Jacqui reminded the meeting that what Carers need is access to support, not Social Workers! Perhaps an Early Support Pathway would help. Parents commented that any 'pathway' must apply to people moving into the area as well as those born here.

Social Workers will still be needed for Personalisation, but hard to get continuity. Jacqui reminded the meeting that this is one of the strengths of Parent Support groups in that they hold the knowledge in the community, hence the Parent Carer training programme.

CAF, Transition, Specialist Provision vs. Inclusion, mapping of need, referrals to Herefordshire Carers Support; all are issues already in the programme that may or may not be addressed in the Review of Services for Children with a Disability.

New issue to be added to the tracking list is working more closely with the local Downs Syndrome Association to find out if they are satisfied with local service provision, including clinical lead for this area.

Invite Commissioner Chris Baird to October meeting.

5 Sports Survey

Summary of Sports Survey findings will be posted on the web along with link to Survey Monkey to allow others to post their views. There will also be a meeting with Sports Partnership to take finding forward.

6 Herefordshire Carers Support AGM

The report back to Carers will be on Wednesday 14 September. Annette, Michelle and Sheridan will be speaking about the work of the Forum.

7 Herefordshire Carers Support – New on-line Forum

There is now a forum facility on the HCS website. Visit www.hereforeshirecarers.co.uk/forum Parent Carer Voice members were urged to have a look and share their views.

8 Any Other Business

Herefordshire Learning Disability Trust (HLDT) Sue attended a recent meeting and found considerable overlap between their plans for more information about short breaks and work of PCV. It was agreed that Jo would set up a meeting between Mandy from HLDT and Michelle.

Michelle proposed that members of PVC go as a group to the Carers UK conference at Canary Warf on 3 November 2011. Sue to circulate details to find out what demand is.

Facebook, Twitter, UTube – could/should we use them more?

9 Date of Future Meetings

10 am on Friday 9 September 2011

Kindle Centre

7 pm on Wednesday 12 October 2011

Aylestone Court Hotel