



**Steering Group Meeting
5th March 2008
Minutes and Action Points**

The meeting started with apologies and introductions of those present.

The progress of the project was discussed and the workplan (see attached document) reviewed.

The meeting agreed that –

The name and logo for the project were good ones.

The basic information on the website was good.

Action point - David to ensure that important sections of the website (e.g. Mental Health 1st Aid, Tips for Promoting Positive Mental Health were more 'obvious' for those logging onto the site.)

The images will be very important for people to help make sense of the website

Action point - ALL to ensure that as many people as possible see the images questionnaire and feedback their views.

As well as the images we might need a simple 'glossary' for the terms we use and what the images have meant to other people with a learning disability

Action point - ALL to ensure that as many people as possible see the images and feedback the words people used to describe these images

Action point David to develop a 'images required' list and circulate for comment

We need to ensure that the images used mean the same thing each time they appear on the website (and possibly in the longer run elsewhere).

We need to ensure as many people as possible are aware of the project and the need for them to input into its development.

Action point – ALL spread the word about the project to their contacts and groups (A list of those already contacted is attached – however if people have other personal contacts within these organisations these may be more helpful/useful)

(Continued)

The meeting gave a few suggestions of other people to contact - these included –

- Mental Health Practice Journal
- Mental Health Matters
- Partnership Boards
- Mental Health LIT's (Local Implementation Teams)
- NNLDN (and Conference)
- Forensic Service Conference
- Those involved in Transition (as this was thought to be a time when the risks of mental ill health was higher)

Action Point – ALL if you can think of anyone else to contact please let me know

The need to ensure reciprocal weblinks was raised-this is a benefit to all. A copy of the Clear Thoughts logos will be sent with these minutes for people to add to their respective websites.

Action Point – ALL please add the Clear Thoughts logo and link to your websites and send your logos to me for reciprocal links.

A discussion about how people without access to the Internet could find out about the project took place. It was agreed that any printing of information from the website would have to be done locally and that professionals should be making others aware of the website.

Action Point – David to ensure this is stated on the website

The Clear Thoughts project should not be printing items off or developing booklets etc due to cost implications (but maybe a further application for funding could take place). Having a dedicated helpline was also rejected for similar reasons (again a funding bid?)

Action Point – David to develop a simple 'Basics' CD to send to Partnership Boards and LIT's.

(This may well be after we have the images and the glossary text making clear that Partnership Boards and LIT's need to be aware of the local issues and right people to contact.)

The importance of having personal stories and information on the website was raised. There are examples of these on other websites and due to consent issues it might be better to re-direct people to these rather than add them to the Clear Thoughts website. This does not mean that examples should not also be on the website

Action Point – ALL if you are aware of Videos, Blogs, stories etc on other sites please let me have these and I can add links to the site. If you know anyone who would like to write a piece for the website, again let me know.

(Continued)

The importance of the 'easy read' sections of the website even for professionals and families was discussed. To this end it was felt that some simple 'What Should I Do Now?' type information on the website would be useful for families.

Action Point – David to develop these and share for comments with the Steering Group

Alongside this the Positive Mental Health aspects of the website should be increased in profile. It was felt that those logging on could become negative about the (helpful) content and that the positive aspects should be more obvious to users.

Action – David to amend site

The Forum on the website was discussed. It was felt that it should be clearer that we reserve the right to remove posts and that people should try not to use names and maintain confidentiality.

Action – David to amend site

The possibility of having a conference (workshop/focus day), or series of conferences around the UK, focusing on Mental Health in Learning Disability – especially around positive mental health was discussed. The timing for this will depend on the other work going on in this area. For example Green Light Toolkit, Mental Health Act, Valuing People refresh, but a joint effort may be the best way forward. Mental health organisations must be involved in this process to ensure as many people as possible are involved.

Action – ALL investigate the possibilities for this work

If anyone has any meetings/conferences/groups that they would like me to attend then let me know and I'll do my best to be there. Any questions, comments, suggestions that can be discussed via email please contact me and we can discuss them as a 'virtual' group

Next Meeting Tues 16th September in Chesterfield 10-30am – 2pm with lunch

- Thanks to all members of the Steering Group, old and new for their efforts and support with the project.
- Special thanks to Mencap for the use of the meeting room and the refreshments.