



**Steering Group Meeting
2nd December 2008
Minutes and Action Points**

Work completed since last meeting.

The project has raised its profile through electronic and human contacts.

The various electronic networks such as the ARC email network, the Choice Forum, and the LD Health networks are all used to promote the project.

The project worker has attended Mental Health Today and Learning Disability Today as well as various meetings and conferences across the country.

The worker is also current involved in the delivery of a Learning Disability in CAMH services at York University

Website

The statistics for the Clear Thoughts website are attached to these minutes, they show an increasing (but maybe not as much as we would all like) use of the website resource.

CHANGE and images/CD resource.

CHANGE are the organisation commissioned to develop the images being used by the project. Due to a lack of communication on behalf of both parties we found ourselves in 'disagreement' over the use of the images, in particular on the CD resource that was to be sent to Partnership Boards.

The meeting and further discussion has agreed the way forward for the future use of the CD and the images. The aim is to ensure clarity moving forward.

Candle Resource.

The Candle Resource page of the website has been viewed by 751 visitors (as of 12.01.09). This resource and project fit well with Clear Thoughts and the work of both can be shared across the links and contacts made during them. The work at York University is an example of this.

Conferences and meetings

The project worker will continue to attend meetings and conferences to promote the work of Clear Thoughts.

ACTION POINT if anyone is holding or aware of conferences or meetings that would be useful to attend or speak at then please let me know.

Training Course

During the work of the project some organisations have requested simple Mental Health Awareness training for their staff. The course is in development and the Steering Group felt it was very important that where possible the course was developed jointly with individuals, families and other interested organisations. Some suggestions were given at the meeting.

ACTION POINT if people are aware of others who may be interested then please get in touch

The meeting also shared the possible places the training course should be promoted and again if people have suggestions please get in touch

Workshops

It was suggested that workshops could be held across the country regarding the responsibilities of Partnership Boards in terms of mental health for people with a learning disability. The project will investigate this but there are significant funding issues with holding any workshops. The project worker will make contact with other organisations to see if it is possible to share resources in this area.

Press Release

The meeting suggested that it would be a very useful action to produce a press release highlighting the project and its resources. This will be developed and shared with the Steering Group. The project needs to ensure the release is timely and makes best use of the opportunity. ARC does not have its own Press Dept so any assistance and guidance from those that do, or those you work with, would be most welcome.

ACTION POINT can Steering Group members please forward any contacts they have for press departments

Journal articles

The last meeting discussed getting journal articles published promoting the project. This will be linked to the press release and any further 'launch' of the project.

Mental Health Checklists

Also shared at the meeting were the series of simple 'checklists' regarding learning disability and mental health have been developed by the project. These are available on the website and will also be on the CD (see below).

Future Funding options – thinking ahead

The current funding for this project runs out in 3 months time. As much as the website and the CD resource will continue to be available the meeting felt it would be good to keep the project going in some form. ARC are looking at future funding options. **ACTION POINT** if anyone has any really good ideas about the future funding of the project please do get in touch

Date time and venue of next meeting

The next meeting of the project will be held on

Thursday 5th March

At Mencap National Office London

9.30am – 12.30am

More details will be sent out nearer this date

ACTION POINT could steering group members please try to attend as this may well be the final meeting for the project.