

VIP Meeting Minutes
Friday September 17th
Cliffden Hotel, Teignmouth

Apology from David Abbott.

In attendance: Richard Schuker, Mike Taun, Kay Haywood, Mette Langdahl, Caroline Lee and Sandra Chapman.

	Action
<p>RS apologized for his abrupt exit from the last meeting. Baby Dylan arrived soon afterwards.</p> <p>Medical Pendants: EDDC introducing means testing when these pendants have been free. Honiton SC seized this as an issue. LINK VIP can join voice with Honiton SC to pursue this. Now £2.50 per week. Joanna Bull ex mayor leading the campaign. Pendants do not come back upon death. Nominated 3 people should be asked to return pendant.</p> <p>Log issue with LINK. Give details of Joanna to VIP group</p>	<p>CL CL</p>
<p>Companion Bus Scheme Bus passes will now be chipped so costs are sent back to the issuing council.</p>	

<p>Enter and View Training postponed but Hospital concourse is not finished until Christmas – hopefully training and CRB will be completed by then.</p>	
<p>Disability Quality Action Group meeting 9th December</p> <p>MT has been invited to give a talk by the RD&E. Please submit any ideas to MT to push Visual Impairment at the meeting. Mike will volunteer to mentor staff in their training.</p> <p>MT will push for a representative of LINK Devon to be on the meetings board.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>RS explained how the POD scheme has been renamed to ECLO (Eye Clinic Liaison Officers). These officers will be fully trained to have an overall perspective of organisations available, specific to the condition diagnosed. This is going to be starting in March 2010 in Torbay. This RNIB initiative will then be sold onto other PCT's to roll out the model.</p>	
<p>RNIB's "Lost and Found" campaign launched on the 16th September. Shared Spaces – open plan design is losing the edges of pavements, road signs – just open space. Virtually impossible for white cane users to track.</p>	
<p>MT talked to students at East Devon College aged</p>	

<p>16/17 with Lou Clark DCAB. Sight Awareness education should be introduced at an early age in schools/colleges to develop social skills toward Visual Impairment needed by Medical professionals during their career.</p>	
<p>LINK networking event on 19th October clashes with the DCAB AGM in Exmouth Pavilion. VIP can do both as DCAB would like a LINK stand at their AGM.</p>	<p>RS / CL liaise</p>
<p>Action for Blind People are moving on 24th October around the corner, next door to Guide Dogs. Address and phone number will be supplied in due course.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>Planning a LINK visit template needs to be completed before the RD&E visit (schedule for next meeting) RS will bring some colleagues to act as scribes.</p> <p>North Devon could be visited to have a comparison.</p>	<p>RS/CL</p>
<p>RS asked for 10 volunteers for mystery shoppers for the Disabled Persons Rail Card. Free railcard as a thank you. MT / ML interested.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>Emails with a PDF attachment doesn't work with JAWs software. Must be in Microsoft Word</p>	

<p>The Chair of the VIP now has executive powers and can now sign letters as agreed with the LINK Steering Group at their last meeting. Letters to be centrally logged with the LINK.</p> <p>A letter needs to be written to say about the brilliant concept of the stickers recommended by the VIP group to go on correspondence, as this is a hard outcome</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>Any other business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newsletter from DCAB re the Social Care Green paper shaping the future of the social system. The big issue is the proposal that Attendance Allowance (older people's allowance) should be abolished. DCAB are asking for people's views and experiences. KH responded and received a reply. <p>There is a consultation event on the 6th October (CL has details)</p>	
<p>Next Meeting 23rd October 2009 Cliffden Hotel, Teignmouth 11am – 1pm</p>	