

MINUTES

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT (VIP) ACTION GROUP

MINUTES of meeting 29th January 2010 11am – 1 pm

Venue: Cliffden Hotel, Teignmouth

1	<p><u>Apologies:</u> Mette, Mike Taun, Barry Knowle, Marion Slyfield</p> <p><u>Present:</u> RS, CL, KH, DA, MB, Tara Melton - RNIB</p>	ACTION
2	<p><u>Points arising last months minutes:</u></p> <p>CL section 3, CRB letter complaint letter read to group and amended according to comments and suggestions.</p> <p>Discussion about DLA allowance?</p> <p>TM From April 2011 if you have a severe sight impairment you will be entitled to apply for benefit. RS decision can go both ways (less or increase) as whole case will be reviewed as a new case. Lots of changes have taken place</p> <p>Benefit not being taken away. No longer an automatic right as sight can improve so need to monitor individuals (e.g. cataract ops to improve sight). TM definition of severe sight loss still to be decided. Hence time to get it finalised. The Government are cutting back but this funding is a great thing and a lot will benefit.</p> <p>RS Ask RNIB Action for information and updates. If Devon based contact Exeter. Other offices: Bristol and Salisbury for the South West. Contact them in advance of implementation and they can come and inform on 'the Mobility DLA Increase' in April 2011</p>	<p>CL to send completed letter to CRB. PP'd by RS</p> <p>KH to email RS re someone from RNIB to present to her groups re the legislation for March 2011</p>
3	<p><u>Enter and View Training and Visit</u></p> <p>KH/DA reported on successful E&V training</p> <p>CL Concourse now finished. Going to make the formal request to visit now trained. Still waiting for MT's CRB.</p> <p>North Devon has industrial action taking place in the hospital.</p>	<p>CL to send request for visit</p> <p>CL to visit MT</p>

	<p>Also a report being written (Pam Hogan knows more). Waiting for report to come back. These are reasons for a delay in their visit.</p> <p>CL Still need to cover protection of vulnerable adults. Need to clarify format of the visit.</p> <p>Decide as a group which questions will be useful</p> <p>This group (RD&E) and the North Devon group to work to the same framework.</p>	<p>to complete MT's CR; speak to AS (LINK) re media aspects; write up questions as a guide – email to group for approval.</p>
4	<p><u>RNIB Guest Speaker - Tara Melton</u></p> <p>TM Regional campaigns officer for South West, based in Bristol. Role – national campaigning. Develop regional campaigning. Involved in Local campaigning incl. Social care, hospital provisions, bus service improvement etc. a broad spectrum. Some campaigns that may be of interest.</p> <p>Lost and found Campaign: Get Eye care liaison officers (ECLOs) into hospitals. Prepared a campaign pack for those that wish to become involved</p> <p>Taylor campaign – ECLOs. March 26th. What is an ECLo? How can it be used? Etc</p> <p>TM Lots of ways to get involved. Campaign to become more strategic as plans progressed.</p> <p>Losing Patience Campaign: RNIB commissioned DR Foster research. Key stats 27% health professionals thought a carer or family member could read info to partially sighted patients. Only 1% of partially sighted felt this was acceptable. PCT's and Hospital trusts don't believe there is a demand for it. Not the case. Contact TM tara.melton@rnib.org.uk</p> <p>2nd part or role: direct liaison with PCTs and Hospital Trusts</p> <p>Feb 5th in Cornwall. Event for PCT and HTs and blind a partially sighted people – hour event. Some people coming to talk about experiences of asking for help. E.g Stuart case study. Asked for info to be emailed. He didn't receive email. Sent private details to his parent's address who opened his private letter. A number of people have come forward with similar stories. Issues of confidentiality</p>	<p>TM to send packs to the group/LINK</p> <p>CL to meet with TM to discuss LINK involvement</p> <p>CL to follow up stickers</p> <p>TM to be added to VIP circulation list</p>

	<p>Putting forward an action plan. Getting MP's involved Cornwall PCT have been really receptive Devon PCT has similar issues. Considering a similar event. Looked at end of March but wonder if VIP event could act as platform for similar event (See section 5)</p> <p>RNIB have produced a self assessment tool. Good for LINKs to use. For NHS PCT to complete. Asks about policies CL Send it to NHS Devon. May revisit some things. RS could be a good follow up where questions are still outstanding from previous contact. CL Let PCT's, etc know in advance where possible. Desirable we work in partnership</p> <p>RS Torbay offers emotional support (counselling, buddying system etc). TM ECLO's act as signposters. Employed by Action for Blind People. RS ECLO's will be independent. Initial points of contact. Planned for Devon KH Suggested the need fore more information on effects of sight loss and support. TM having an ECLO is important. All business plans look at reducing the number of people who fall, for example. It is important people raise these issues with the PCT</p>	<p>CL to look into commissioning RNIB for VIP day. Liaise with TM</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Awareness Event</u></p> <p>RS Steve Buckell (head of region for Action for Blind People) coming to the day. Steve connect RS to Richard Tolson – organising the whole of the ECLO aspect</p> <p>CL Altogether Healthier branding? Need VIP group info and supporting organisation logos on the event information. Living options not providing speakers. Only help through Mette. Richard.tolson@actionforblindpeople.org.uk</p> <p>RS been in touch with Optima. They need more details on the event. Not info back from transcription yet. RS Catering sorted</p> <p>CL LINK team will be available to help the group on the day</p> <p>CL Take out network event and replace it with RNIB event</p>	<p>RS to provide contact details on Richard Tolson to CL. Also provide contact details for an ECLO - may be able to come along on the day to describe their role</p> <p>RS to provide more info to Optima</p> <p>Flyer and</p>

	<p>(like 05 02 10, Cornwall). TM happy to adapt to suit the day.</p> <p>50 people maximum to attend the event Related groups members are part of could be invited to send a representative (MB, KH)</p> <p>CL Invites to have a RSVP. A booking form will be generated CL need to ensure the mix of people is effective and covers all the relevant groups, organisations and governing bodies</p>	<p>Publicity to be dealt with by CL/AS @ LINK Flyer ready for 5th Feb meeting</p> <p>MB to talk to Ellen and liaise with CL</p> <p>Email people to invite to CL</p>
6	<p><u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p>MB Mike Cole (Family Consultant at Torbay) invited voluntary groups to meet at Torbay Hospital to introduce to one another. Many alongside one another didn't know they existed</p> <p>RS Consultants no longer paid for registering patients and blind. Registrations have dropped considerably since this change.</p> <p>TM RNIB events: Friday 5th Cornwall & Friday 12th Feb Riviera Centre</p> <p>RS What's on Devon e-document 103 pages details entitlements, services, events etc. 14 point</p> <p>CL LINK Newsletter now available on disk RS requested is as an audio email</p>	<p>CL and group members to look at attending Mike Coles event n 5th Feb, Torbay</p> <p>TM to forward event details to CL</p> <p>CL to ensure hard copy sent to MB and KH</p> <p>Trina to send RS audio email</p>
7	<p><u>Date & Time of next meeting</u></p> <p>Friday 26th February 11am – 1pm Cliffden Hotel</p> <p>5th Feb Event meeting (to meet every Friday until meeting re event) 11 – 1pm in RS office: Action for Blind People, Suite 1, Chiltern House, Sigford Road, Exeter EX2 8NL 12th Feb in EDVSA, Ridgeway House, Ridgeway, Ottery St Mary EX11 1DT 12pm – 2pm Food provided</p>	<p>Book transport for next Friday for KH and DA</p>