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## **Summary Minutes of HPCIB Meeting** **01/12/09**

### **Present:**

Hertford Parent Carer Involvement Board:- Sue Bush, Sanyann Cannon, Leise Cooper, Charlotte Elgar, Sylvia Jenkins, Carol Kelsey, Karen O'Leary, Julia Suslak.  
Aiming High Project Team:- David Gibson, Wendy Evans, Sheila Reynolds.  
Transition Team Adult Care Services:- Rose Geraghty.  
Carers in Herts:- Linda Cooper, Maria Kiely.

### **Apologies:** Erica Marks

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Charlotte Elgar, Chairperson and Carol Kelsey, Vice Chair, from the Parent Carer Involvement Board, on the Aiming High for Disabled Children Consultation Proposals.

The presentation covered initially an overview about the Board and what process the Board have been through to come up with their proposals.

The Board presented what they liked from the Aiming High proposals:-

- "Hub and Spoke" model
- Tiered access-transparent triangle of services
- "Training High"- at user friendly times
- Purpose built hubs and short break units
- Increased overnight provision in East Hertfordshire
- Continuation of specialist health provision
- Playground resource for families similar to Thames Valley.

They stated their concerns:-

- Bed inequity in the proposals between East and West.
- "One size fits all" overnight short break services
- No clear plan of how bed occupancy would be increased to 85%
- Impact on demand of:
  1. Out of County provision
  2. Increased foster carers
- Nascot Lawn as county wide health provision
- No smaller units ie no 3 bedded units - loss of choice

### **Action:**

The Board put forward the issues with Overnight short breaks: universal versus specialist.

- Families want choice - local versus ASD or PNI specific
- Resent excessive expenditure on adaptation
- Lack of specialism units: "Jack of all trades, master of none".
- Perceived risk to children - lack of confidence
- Consider ASD or PNI/health "emphasis" units
- Consider smaller, flexible units on the same site

The Board put forward their views on what they felt were the key attributes for a Hub: a disabled children's centre

- Hub should be a physical space
- Link staff at Hub: pro-active support for families
- Needs led services commissioned by Hub
- Outsourced to external providers
- Regular user satisfaction surveys
- Increase staff in short break units for higher level need. Not reduce spaces
- Hub and short break unit need to work closely but not necessarily on same site.
- Accessible to all in catchment area
- Parent carer development group in each Hub
- Reception area with lending library, café
- Large flexible space for specialist playgroup. Higher needs play scheme, therapy, training. carers drop-in
- Garden for sibling activities. Carers etc

They then put forward their views on short break units across the county and where Hubs should be situated and finally raised other issues concerning the consultation and what in their view should happen next.

There was then a discussion with the Aiming High project team about a number of the issues that the Parent Carer Board had raised.

The project team informed the group that they had by the end of the consultation received 144 formal responses, 124 people attended the open meetings held in October and through Carers in Herts Parent Carer Involvement Workers a further 355 parents had had the chance to express their views.

Wendy Evans and David Gibson, on behalf of the Aiming High project team, expressed their appreciation for all the work done by the Parent Carer Involvement Board and by the Parent Carer Involvement Workers.

The meeting finished at 9.00 pm.