

# Carers in Hertfordshire LD Carers Forum

## Notes of meeting held Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019



1	<b>Carers Present: 21</b>
2	<b>Others Present:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Chair - Marie Scales</b></li><li>• <b>Carers in Hertfordshire – Karen Malone- Involvement and Development Worker, Nicola Beadle - Involvement and Development Worker, Will Davis- Advocacy Worker and Involvement Team Leader, Sue Felgate</b></li><li>• <b>Other Professionals – Robin Goold</b></li></ul>
3	<b>Welcome by Chair</b>
4	<b>Presentation by Robin Goold Deputy Head of Community Commissioning Adult Disabilities.</b> <p>Robin shared with us slides prepared by Alison Spalding regarding Hertfordshire County Council has a strategic role in relation to housing people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>We heard there are infrastructure problems in the county. Nationally there are huge problems with the supply of housing. In Hertfordshire the legacy from the closure of the hospitals is that there are more people in residential care. There is a higher use of residential care in areas where there are county councils.</p> <p>The County Council currently has a shared ownership pilot scheme running, this is being set up so that people with Learning Disabilities can use their housing benefit to fund. In addition, the County owns land and buildings and is currently reviewing its use of those and has set up its own 'arms length' property company. There are plans for the council to start a small scheme of housing in partnership with the voluntary sector.</p> <p>In Hertfordshire the County Council are also trying to work in partnership with district councils on Accommodation Boards. The Council is keen to encourage local district councils to ensure where possible there is a range of options available to people with Learning Disabilities depending on individual circumstances. This is likely to include private renting, registered social landlords using long leases as well care where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Carers were interested to know if there is any upper age limit on those living in supported housing?</b></p>

There is no upper age limit however, it may be that the building is no longer fit for purpose as the person ages. For example, if they can no longer manage any stairs. Supported living means many different things it means supporting people to live their best lives and that will mean different things to different people depending on the nature of their individual needs.

**A Carer raised the issue of the closure of some respite services?** She was concerned that for some, depending on age, might have to get used to a new respite setting and a move into residential care.

Robin explained that people get used to choosing from what they currently have and that there may be other choices that they would prefer but do not know about yet.

**One carer raised the issue of planning for independence and a move into supported housing?**

Carers want to look at the provision that is available ahead of time, but the providers will not necessarily agree to this because they feel it is an invasion of privacy for people already living there. Carers felt that social workers tend to give them one or two choices but how are they to know the full range of options available to them.

Robin clarified there would be a new list of providers available for carers at the end of September, it is an important part of the Connected Lives Approach in Hertfordshire that people get the support they need to find the right accommodation for their needs.

**Several carers felt that there ought to be more they could read about each setting.**

Robin explained that in some cases it will be appropriate for carers to access general needs housing.

**Carers raised the issue of the time given for a housing applicant to decide when the offer of a property is made is insufficient for family carers and people with Learning Disabilities to make a decision. There are often other factors that will need to be weighed up before a decision is made for example, can an appropriate care package be put in place at this location. Is there property suitable located for travel on public transport and access to a doctor surgery.**

Karen Malone asked if there would be an opportunity to take this forward at an Accommodation Board with the district council and that it could potentially be a good opportunity for a piece of co-production work with carers.

	<p><b>Carers were keen to know if there were currently any private developers who are building properties specifically for people with Learning Disabilities.</b></p>
5	<p><b>Respite Consultation- Will Davis</b></p>
6	<p><b>Carer in Herts – Questionnaire</b>  Carers present were asked to complete a quick survey giving feed back on the services provided by carers in Herts and if there is anything that is not currently provided but carers would like us to provide in the future.</p>
7	<p>Updates on meetings of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purple Star Strategy <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/purple-star/the-purple-star-strategy-initial-info.docx">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/purple-star/the-purple-star-strategy-initial-info.docx</a></li> <li>• The LeDer Review <a href="https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/sps/leder/LeDeR_Annual_Report_2018%20published%20May%202019.pdf">https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/sps/leder/LeDeR_Annual_Report_2018%20published%20May%202019.pdf</a></li> <li>• Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)</li> <li>• Healthwatch</li> </ul> <p>(click link for more back ground information on these meetings, for anyone who has no internet we can provide paper copies)</p>
	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>  We spoke about the importance of the flu vaccine</p>
7	<p><b>Date of next LD Forum is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the Birchwood Centre, Hatfield.</b></p> <p>Click link for map <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@51.774267,-0.221851,15z">https://www.google.com/maps/@51.774267,-0.221851,15z</a></p>