







SEVENOAKS & SWANLEY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Tuesday 12th September 2006, 12.30pm

At The Junction Swanley Youth & Community Centre AGENDA

1, 2.	Welcome and Introductions, and apologies from people who cannot come	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting, inc. feedback from: Kent Partnership Board Simon Goldsmith Speaking-Up Group	MINUTES
4.	Update on employing someone to work for us	
5.	LUNCH	
6.	Chris Belton re Horizons	
7.	Alan Whiting re Sevenoaks District Community Plan	
8.	Dates for meetings in 2007	
9.	Any Other Business	AOB

SEVENOAKS AND SWANLEY DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

9th May 2006, 12.30pm

at The Junction, Swanley & Community Youth Centre

Present:

Steve James	Ann Waghorne	Sarah Burfutt
Anthony Waghorne	Chris Lewis	Pete Martin
Simone Bullen	Sherida Copley	Marco Gandolfo
Terese Money	Claudine Brown	Jenny Wilders
Steve McGlen	Jane, CARE Edenbridge	Jeff Smith
Ian, Swanley Day Centre	Liz, Life Choice	Lee, Life Choice
Gemma, Life Choice	Gwen, CARE Edenbridge	Athene, MENCAP
Trevor, Swanley Day Centre	Tony, Swanley Day Centre	Karen, Swanley Day Centre
John, Swanley Day Centre	Nicky Mercer	Sarah, Swanley Day Centre
Edmund, Ash Close	Jo, MENCAP Edenbridge	Wendy Barnes

Apologies:



Debbie Bell-Hoare	Lyn Webb	Tim Broadhurst
Wendy Aldred	Simon Goldsmith	Carol Riddington
Joan Boakes	Roy Tullet	Vivienne Smith
Cathy Caine	Jane, West Kent Housing	

Welcome:

Steve and Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for coming.

Everybody introduced themselves.

Minutes of Last Meeting and Feedback:

Steve read through the minutes of the last meeting, which was on 14th March. When he got to the discussion about Horizons, Simone updated us on the situation:



Horizons

A formal consultation is being started about Horizons, beginning on the 11th May which will last for eight weeks, to gain views from everybody involved such as service users, staff and carers.

There are meetings on 24th May and 7th June which everyone is invited to - invites will be sent out soon, along with a questionnaire for people to fill in. This is one of the ways to get your point across.



It is very important that people concerned attend these to speak up about their views / concerns. Simone explained that there will also be two meetings this week, one for staff and the other for service users and carers.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea for as many people as possible to meet from our group, purely to discuss Horizons, and to fill in the questionnaire. The 1st June was suggested as this is the next date that the Speaking Up group are meeting, from 1.30pm to 3pm. Steve asked Chris, and those service users present, if it would be ok to take part in a bit of this meeting which they agreed to.

Pictorial Minutes

Steve asked the group if they were happy with the format of the picture minutes, and if people thought it was a good idea to continue with this idea, which they were as they easier to understand than the normal minutes!



Kent Partnership Board

At the last Partnership Board meeting, there was a discussion about using the

green, red and white cards a bit differently, ie cutting them up into different shapes. Steve promised that this would be done in time for the next meeting.

Steve told the group about a day out in Ashford on 16th June to discuss the future of District Partnership Groups, of which there are five places available - two are for Co-Chairs and three for anyone else interested in going.

There was also a discussion about the website set up for the partnership board - Jeff reported that this is now up and running.



Simon Goldsmith's Project

As Simon wasn't at the meeting, Chris updated us on his project. It is still going really well, there is one circle of support that is up and running, and they are about to start another. There is a meeting on 13th June at the Mulberry Centre about PCP's which people are invited to - there are still spaces left! There was a form that was sent out with the last set of minutes, and Chris had spares at the meeting. Please contact Simon on **01322 614659** if you would like to go but don't have the flyer.

Chris also informed the group that Simon is in the process of designing a website for the District Partnership Group and he is looking for information on services, any events etc that may be of interest. If anyone has anything they wish to contribute to the website, there is a leaflet enclosed with contact information for Simon. It is hoped that this website will be up and running by the end of the summer.

Speaking Up Group

Chris reported that after our last meeting, where we had someone from Adult Education talk to us, the speaking-up group have written to the Adult Education service in Swanley as they stopped running their courses. There will be someone attending the next speaking-up group.

The speaking-up group were concerned about the closure of local Post Offices, and a petition is being drawn up. We had a discussion about Post Offices and what we could do about this problem - we thought it might be a good idea to write to local MP's and find out



who is in charge of Post Offices and invite them to one of our meetings. Sherida and Tony volunteered to do this, and will let us know.

The speaking-up group also discussed the progress of recruiting someone to work for the District Partnership Group. Progress is being made on this, and there should be more to feedback at the next DPG.

There were also discussions about the future of Horizons again. Chris will be able to update the group the information that Simone gave us.

Marco Gandolfo re Direct Payments

Marco explained that Direct Payments can be accessed by everybody except those who live in residential services.

Marco works at the Direct Payments Scheme, who are there to assist with any queries or technical issues. They are a team within Kent County Council who work alongside Care Management. The Direct Payments team are not budget holders - they cannot say how much money you are allowed - this is for Care Managers to decide.



If you are interested in receiving Direct Payments, you need to make a referral to your Care Manager who will then assess you to see if you are eligible to receive the service. If you choose to have Direct Payments, a Direct Payments advisor is allocated to you.

Simone said that she thought you were not able to buy certain services - Marco explained that you were unable to buy in-house services that are run by Kent County Council. It is possible to pay for a mixture of services with Direct Payments. For instance, you can start off with 10 hours then increase / decrease as needed.

Marco had some leaflets with him that had contact details for him. This is attached to the minutes.

Steve McGlen, Maidstone Weald PCT

Steve handed out a NHS brochure called 'Simply Health' for people to take away and read. He is currently working on two more brochures called 'Transition' and a 'Handbook for Greater Independence'.



On the back page of the 'Simply Health' brochure, there is a contact number for **PALS - 0845 601 5890**. This is a very useful number to have, as you can complain about a bad experience of a Doctor / Dentist etc in complete confidence. You don't have to leave your contact details if you do not wish to.

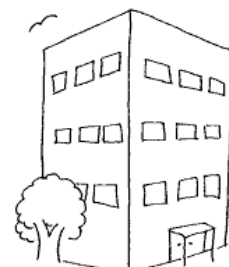


Please contact Sarah Burfutt on 020 8308 2900 if you don't have a copy of the 'Simply Health' brochure as there are spares if needed.

Feedback from Project Groups

Employment Group

Steve explained that there were similar conversations being discussed in the Horizon Board meetings, which Steve and Simon are a part of. The Board plan to speak to BT about a huge building in Sevenoaks. Our group are still working on finding a local base in the area.



Short Term Breaks Group

Sherida explained that the group had been given an old proposal by Lindsay Griffiths, and Wendy had taken it to tweak it. They are looking to fund a Project Officer post to develop a short-term break service for people with learning disabilities who live with older carers. They are also looking to employ another person will help with advocacy and help gather information. This service would be funded through Direct Payments.



Employing Someone to Work for the DPG

No-one from the group could give an update on this project, as Nicki had emailed

some information on advertising the post to Steve, which was never received. Chris said that he would ask Nicki to re-send the email so that progress could be made. The Kent on Sunday paper was suggested to advertise, and there is a free local newspaper on Saturdays. It will also be advertised internally.



Any Other Business



Gemma told the group that she has some information on services for visually impaired people, including tape machines.

There was a discussion around emailing any information to the District Partnership Group, rather than sending it in the post.

Sarah explained that she has some peoples email addresses, but there are sometimes attachments that cannot be emailed.

Where possible, she said she would email them. If you would like documents to be emailed, please send your email address to either:



steve.james@theavenustrust.co.uk or sarah.burfutt@theavenustrust.co.uk

Steve explained that Jeff Smith had suggested a co-meeting between Swanley & Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells District Partnership



Groups. The Co-Chairs had agreed to this as it might be useful to share information / ideas and have useful links in different parts of Kent. Steve said that they will have met before the next District Partnership Group, and so will be able to feedback then.

Steve handed out a leaflet, advertising a launch party on 8th June, in Jumpin Jaks, Maidstone. Anyone who is interested who did not receive a leaflet; Sarah Burfutt has some more - please call her on 020 8308 2900.

