

Regional Task Force – ACTION NOTES

NB. PLEASE NOTE CHANGES OF DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS THIS HAS BEEN NECESSARY BECAUSE OF HARRIS PARK AVAILABILITY

13th September, 15th December.

Present	Paddy Burke – Self-Advocate Co-chair	Apologies	Julie Stansfield – Valuing People/ Care Services Improvement Partnership	Date: 03.07.06
	Christopher Payne – Self-Advocate		Charlie Barker (Chair, Sefton ADSS)	
	Elaine Entwistle – Self-Advocate		Margaret McNiece – Self-Advocate	
	Suzanne Marshall – Self-Advocate		Eric Nicholas – Family Forum	
	Gary Hargreaves – Self-Advocate		Dave Clemmett – Greater Manchester	
	Val Bracken – Support for Self-Advocate representatives			

Present
cont.




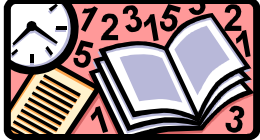
Denise Allen – Family
Forum, Co-chair
Margaret Cook – Family
Forum
Julia Erskine – Family
Forum
Phil Palmer – Family Forum
Tony McDermott – Family
Forum
Frank Hurley – Family
Forum
Gerry Flanagan – Cheshire
/Merseyside
Dave Spencer – Lancashire
/Cumbria
Lynn James-Jenkinson –
Director NWTDT

Apologies
cont.

Isabel Southern –
Greater Manchester
Graham Hodgkinson
– Lancashire
/Cumbria

Not in
attendance

**Anne-Marie
Whiteside** – Family
Forum
Alan Hurst - Self-
Advocate
Andrew Barber –
Self-Advocate

ISSUE	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Minutes last meeting	Minutes accepted		
 <p>Today's Chairs</p>	 <p>Co-Chairs – Paddy Burke and Denise Allen chaired today's meeting. Charlie Barker sent his apologies</p>  <p>Concern was expressed about poor representation from Lead Officers at the Task Force meeting today.</p>		
Maters Arising	 <p>Lynn confirmed the notes from the last meeting were posted and emailed out to Task Force Members on 17.05.06</p>		



The Business Plan was agreed by the Commissioning Group and copies were available for Task Force members, the Business Plan is available on the NWTDT website (www.nwtdt.com).



Self-Advocate representatives and Family Forum representatives gave short presentations to explain the difficulties faced by people when trying to attend meetings, including Regional Task Force meetings.



What are the meetings we are expected to go to?

Partnership Boards / Steering Groups/ Task and Sub Groups

Business Planning Meetings

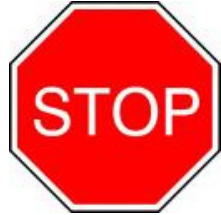
Mencap meetings

Advocacy Meetings

Self-advocacy meetings

Task Force Meetings and pre meetings

Commissioning Group Meetings



What stops people coming to meetings

- Shopping days
- Dependent on volunteers – not enough staff

- Day out for people so not enough support to take the person to the meeting
- Child care
- Caring responsibilities
- Meetings set in school holidays

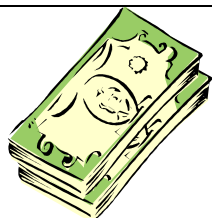


Things that cause problems

include –

- Changing times/ venues of meetings to suit professionals who often have cars to get to meetings.
- Not told when meetings are cancelled – last minute emails.
- Self-advocates/ families are not paid for their time but expected to be involved. Often out of pocket to attend
- The times of meetings aren't always good for families; need to change times – sometimes evenings, weekends etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People don't always know they can ask for support. Support provided nationally but not regionally.• Self-Advocates and families would benefit from 1 contact person to contact for agenda, notes etc, also to keep in touch in between meetings.• Minutes etc. sent by email – not everyone has access to a computer or can afford paper and ink involved, need to refund cost of ink and paper if needed.• Same self-advocates and parents get asked or have the time to involved.• Someone should go out of their way to make self-advocates and families feel more welcome at meetings, it is sometimes hard to walk into a room of professionals who know each other. It would be nice for if people made an extra effort.		
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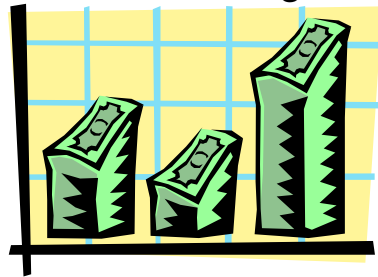


Standards for meetings that would not cost a lot of money.

- Someone to talk to about the agenda before the meeting (not by email) and space in the meeting for time to think and talk – use traffic light cards.
- Check if anyone needs a lift before and after meetings
- Help people understand that the meetings people want to go to are important to them
- Everyone recognise the value of meetings – more important than going shopping/ budgeting.
- Partnership Boards to have a dedicated support person for self-advocates and families
- Buy ink and paper if needed for families and self-advocates, send things out on paper

not just email.

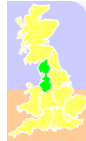
- Use ONE easy read system use the same logos for the meetings so we can recognise which meeting we are talking about – use font size 16.
- Consistent support for self-advocates – same person
- Help with transport to get to meetings
- Check out ‘how was it for you?’ at the end of meetings.



Bigger issues –

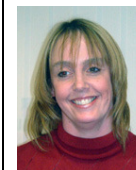
- Need more money from the Government
- Money from each Partnership Board for carers and self-advocates
- Grants from Local firms
- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Funding from all Partnership Boards e.g.

£1,000 from each Board to support self-advocate and families attending the Task Force and regional meetings.




Actions for the Task Force





- Needs a higher profile – these are important meetings – members to link to local Partnership Boards to talk about what the Task Force does.
- Valuing People Regional Rep needs to ask Local Authority tough questions about the support given to self-advocates and families to attend meetings.
- Maybe a big conference – set the scene as a good resource for the region
- Send dates to peoples managers too so they don't get asked to do something else on the day of Task Force meetings.
- Write to each Partnership Board from Valuing People and the Task Force to ask how they support carers/ families and self-





Lynn to

Within next weeks

	<p>advocates to meetings locally, to Regional Task Force and National Task Force. Copy of Letter attached to notes.</p>	<p>send letter out drafted by Regional Task Force</p>	
 <p>'How was it for you today?'</p>	<p>Val: really well chaired meeting. Frank: very good, enjoyed it. Dave: very helpful for the new job. Gary: quite good. Denise: really relaxed atmosphere and done a lot. Elaine: very good. Margaret: brilliant day with actions. Suzanne: enjoyed it, brilliant day. Kim: well chaired by Paddy and all had their say. Tony: encouraging. Gerry: enjoyable and stimulation – loads to think about. Phil: bit of a scorcher, good to help us organise Family Forum next month. Julia: action packed, got through loads, very</p>		

	<p>positive. Chris: followed it all and brought issues up. Andy: really good, relaxed and lots to think about. Joanne: interesting – doing instead of just talking about them. Paddy: very interesting chairing the meeting and having fun as well.</p>		
<p>NWTDT – update report April 2006</p>  	<p>Report available on the NWTDT website (www.nwtdt.com) or by contacting Sue Canavan – sue.canavan@nwtdt.com</p>		
<p>Valuing People after 2006 (Dave Spencer</p>  <p>)</p> 	<p>Dave Spencer will be the new North West Regional Valuing People representative – welcome Dave.</p>		

<p>Any Other Business</p> 	<p><u>Regional Task Force</u></p> <p>2006/2007 Regional Task Force dates –</p> <p>13th September, 15th December.</p> <p>Meetings to be at Harris Park Conference Centre Preston</p>	<p>Lynn</p> 	
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Next Meeting – 13th September, Harris Park Conference Centre, Preston

**The Theme for this meeting is about employment –
“Give us a job and pay us the same as everyone else”**