

# West Midlands Regional Self-Advocacy Network



Network Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: Thursday 22 August 2019

## Who was there?

<p><b>Asist</b> Apologies</p> <p><b>Dudley Voices for Choice</b> Neil Davies, Diane Williams</p> <p><b>Grapevine Empowerment</b> Courtney Walker, Samantha Collins, Helena Bagg</p> <p><b>Grapevine (Coventry and Warwickshire)</b> Apologies</p> <p><b>Herefordshire Mencap</b> Paul Scott, Rose Hunt</p> <p><b>Making Our Choice</b> Graeme Smith, Alison Davies</p>	<p><b>Our Way</b> John Lawley, Scott Rooney, Caroline Jones</p> <p><b>Solihull Action Through Advocacy</b> Kathy O'Bryan, Kirsty Lawrence</p> <p><b>Speakeasy NOW in Worcester</b> Apologies</p> <p><b>Speakeasy NOW in Worcester</b> Ruby Walker, Jo</p> <p><b>Taking Part (Shropshire)</b> Michael Ratcliffe, Diana Morgan</p> <p><b>Taking Part (Telford and Wrekin)</b> Marlene Ratcliffe, Gill Edmunds</p>
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## Any others?

Phil Moran – Network Coordinator

Sarah Offley – Dudley Voices for Choice



**Is there anything we need to change on the Minutes?**

No, everything was OK



**Comments about the last Regional Network meeting**

No comments, the meeting went well

## What did we talk about?



### The new West Midlands Regional Self-Advocacy Network

We talked about what it is and what it really means to us.

We also talked about the new job roles for the Regional Network:

- **The Network Coordinator** – This is Phil Moran. He will help the groups in the network work together. We were introduced to Phil and we asked him some questions about himself;
- **The Link Worker**– we talked about this new job role. When Phil finishes the job description, we will be able to apply for the job if we want to;
- **The Support** – we also talked about what the support team at our Self Advocacy centres would be doing to help the Link Workers;



**To-Do All:** Everyone was reminded to bring their traffic light cards to future meetings.



**Photo Consent Forms** - We would like to make our own Facebook page and website. It would be great to have some of your photos on there too, but we need your permission to do that.

**To-Do Phil:** To make a media consent form ready for the next Network meeting.



**Meeting Evaluation Form** - To be sure that the meetings go well and are productive and inclusive, we will all have the opportunity to say what we liked and did not like about the meeting.

**To-Do Phil:** To make an evaluation form ready for the next Network meeting.

## Which Big Issues do we want to do more work on?



### **Some Problems with the NHS**

We talked about long waiting times to get a hospital or Doctor's appointment and how we do not always get to see the same person each time.

Some of us get confused about which health service we should use if we have a problem.

Not all of us use Hospital Passports and not all health professionals bother to read them.

Our health record should say that we have a learning disability so we do not have to explain every time we have an appointment.

Samatha and Courtney(Grapevine) said they would ask Kevin Elliot from NHS England to come to talk to us at the November meeting.

**To-Do Sam and Courtney:** please let us know if Kevin can make it.

We will be able to ask him questions about the problems we are having with the NHS.

**To-Do All:** Please get your questions ready to ask Kevin at the meeting.

Taking Part are going to a meeting with NHS England in October.

**To-Do All:** please email Phil any issues about the health service you would like Taking Part to raise at the meeting. Phil will need these by **1st October**.

**To-Do Phil:** He will then send your issues to Taking Part before 7th October.

**To-Do Michael and Diana:** Please update us at the next meeting



### Travel Problems

We agreed that if Kevin Elliot from the NHS was unable to come to the November meeting, we would ask someone from the West Midlands Combined Travel Authority instead.

**To-Do Neil and Sarah :** To speak to West Midlands Travel to see if anyone is available to come to the next meeting so we can talk about the problems we are having with public transport.

### Notes from Phil



- Thanks to everyone who came along to the meeting and making me feel very welcome and part of your team.
- **To-Do:** What does this mean? It means that one or all of us has something that we need "To Do"
- Some people thought there was a little too much talking at the same time as each other at the meeting  
**To-Do All:** Can we all be more aware and make sure that everyone is able to have their say.

*Phil Moran*

### The next Regional Network Meeting:



- Thursday 14th November 2019 at 10:00am
- At BILD offices
- Courtney (Grapevine) has volunteered to run the after lunch ice breaker

# The **3** Big Issues

## **Herefordshire Mencap**

Getting more people to speak up

Universal credit: keeping updated with what's going on locally

Things to do during the day. The Partnership Board is going to talk about this in September

## **Making Our Choice**

We have been campaigning to save the Ring and Ride service across the Black Country. It is really important to our independence and inclusion. We are very happy that it has been taken over by National Express and the buses will continue to run

Walsall's Learning Disability Service is changing to an All Age Disability Service and the plan is to change the only remaining day centre into a reablement service base for all ages and all disabilities. The only day service will be for a few people with complex health needs.

Walsall College is changing the courses it offers to people with learning disabilities. They will all be about becoming more independent, healthy and getting a job

## **Our Way**

Changes to benefits and how they are assessed. This continues to cause many of our members high anxiety and stress. We continue to support them through this process.

Relationships and friendships (support and opportunities). Having positive and fulfilling is of high importance to us all. However support and care plans don't always recognise this and our members tell us that their relationships and friendships are not valued.

Transport – We have seen lots of changes to local transport which is having negative impacts on our members

### **Speakeasy NOW in Worcester**

We wrote a letter to MP Matt Hancock asking what he was going to do about the cuts to services for people with learning disabilities. We are concerned that things are not getting any better. Local authorities are having to make more cuts.

Our Peoples Parliament`s next White Paper is about our Human Rights. You are welcome to join us at the Council Chambers at Worcestershire County Council on November 8th 10-1.00 to join in the discussions.

There have been lots of cuts to bus services in Worcestershire without proper consultation with us. It has left lots of people having to rely on expensive taxis they cannot afford. Is this happening where you live?

### **Dudley Voices for Choice**

We have done some filming for Dudley CCG. It was for something called Feet on the Street where people in the community talk about their experiences, ask questions or tell the CCG things they want them to know.

We supported a health event at Mary Stevens Park with the nurses from Ridge Hill. It was to celebrate 10 years of learning disability nursing and to keep people healthy.

The first Leap, Dance and Bounce night took place in Dudley. This is for adults who have learning disabilities or autism. It is happening every second Saturday of the month 8pm – 10pm.