

Darlington Local Involvement Network (LINK)

Stroke Task Group Meeting

Minutes of Meeting 29th January 2010

Present: Bill Morehead, Michelle Thompson, Jane Osborne, Margaret Lee, Susan Carter and Jenny Chapman.

In attendance: Diane Lax (Team Leader Carers Federation)
Andrea Goldie (Minutes)

Apologies: Audrey Lax, Jean Thurkettle, Peter Freitag, Rosemary Mitchell and Andrew Richardson.

Welcome Matters arising from 3rd December minutes.

Diane welcomed the group and advised of apologies.

No declarations of interest were declared.

Diane began the meeting by discussing the Overview and Scrutiny meeting the host had attended regarding the recent press coverage of Darlington's stroke unit. Discussions took place regarding the timescale leading up to the retirement of the two consultants from Darlington hospital. The question was raised as to "Why they are leaving" – Is there internal issues that have become a problem?

The group decided it would be a good idea to produce a postcard style publication asking members of the public to sign up to show their support for saving the stroke unit. It was decided a good idea would be to use the same colours/style as the stroke card issued by DBC.

The task group needs to obtain as much public feedback as possible from all ages and groups etc. to highlight the fact that strokes do not solely affect the elderly. Petitions can be sent to GP surgeries and other care settings, third sector organisations etc.

Questions were raised as to if the closure would definitely be "bad" for Darlington as a whole. Would the care offered elsewhere be better than the care offered in Darlington? - At the moment the service offered would be the same but further away. If in the future the service offered is an improved service the campaign would centre on having the "improved service" here in Darlington.

Ideas on what to include in the publication were discussed and the group settled on an S.O.S theme. All cards to be returned to LINK for collation.

A small donation may be required from each voluntary partner for the production costs.

The group discussed places to send the information to.

Action:- Diane to request statistics regarding the number of people accessing stroke care on a geographical basis.

Next Steps

A draft copy of postcard and petition to be designed
Invitations to third sector organisations to ask if they wish to be involved
Look into advertisement in the Town Crier
Produce 5000 copies of the postcard.
Distribute accordingly

