10 April
2019

❶ Welcome and Introductions

The co-chairs, **Jodi** and **Stuart**, introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to the meeting

Jodi is the Acting Director of Adult social care at Camden Council

Stuart is an Expert by Experience from **Synergy**, part of **CDA**, Camden Disability Action

❷ Actions and updates from the last meeting

The advocacy working group

Sarah and **Brendan** said that they had not heard from anyone wanting to join the advocacy working group

If anyone would like to join the group, please contact Sarah or Brendan

sarah.lui@camden.gov.uk

brendan@camdendisabilityaction.org.uk

Supported living services working group

Sarah and **Poppy** said that they had not heard from anyone wanting to join the supported living services work group

If anyone would like to join the group, please contact Sarah or Poppy

sarah.lui@camden.gov.uk

poppy.green@camden.gov.uk

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Shared Lives

Poppy now has a copy of the video and will send to **Brendan**

The Greenwood Centre

The official opening of the Greenwood Centre took place last month

Services are now up and running

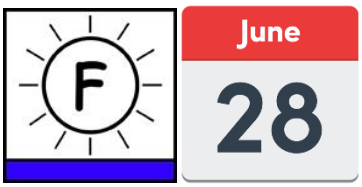
If anyone would like to tour the building, please contact **Brendan**

brendan@camdendisabilityaction.org.uk

HealthFest in the summer

Brendan said that a wide range of activities are being planned for the CLDS HealthFest

It will be held in the **Greenwood Centre**, at the end of June



More details will be available soon

Community inclusion project

Carly confirmed that the pilot project is for people **aged 17 and over**

Accessibility of 5 Pancras Square

No-one has sent Brendan any emails about their concerns or experiences of accessing 5 Pancras Square

Several people then spoke of the difficulties they had experienced, for example

- reception staff being unhelpful

- the confusing system for getting to the lifts
- using the lifts

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Councillor **Pat Callaghan** and **Councillor Simon Pearson** agreed they would look into this

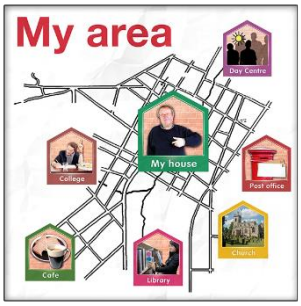
❸

Community inclusion

Madeline Cooper-Ueki and Carly Halpin

Madeline Cooper-Ueki from the National Development Team for Inclusion (NdTi) and **Carly** Halpin gave a presentation about the community inclusion project

The aims of the project are to help people access mainstream services and places



The project works with local businesses and community groups to make their facilities more welcoming and accessible to everyone

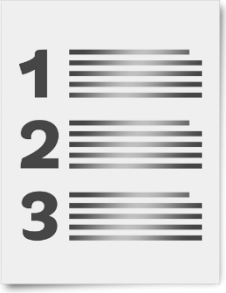
If you would like to take part in the project, please contact Carly

carly@camdendisabilityaction.org.uk

Carly is collecting details of activities and community groups

If you know of any, please let Carly know

Carly confirmed that the project will be cross-borough and can include activities and groups in nearby areas, not just Camden



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Carly to share a list of the services and activities that she finds

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British Association of Social Work (BASW) Review

Becky Reynolds

Becky Reynolds gave a presentation on the national review of social work

The review involved speaking to social workers and patient groups across the country to get their views on social work and what could be made better

The review found that there are differences in needs in different parts of the country

Part of the project is to make sure the same standards are met in all areas

One of the main things that the national review found is that **finance and commissioning processes** are very confusing

finance and commissioning processes means the way money and the buying of services works in councils and in the NHS

Social workers do not always know enough about this to be able to offer help

The review also found that social workers also need more training on human rights and equality laws

BASW will use the results of the review to develop skills and make sure that social workers know what they need to know

Camden is looking at better ways of working by understanding what matters to people with learning disabilities and to their carers

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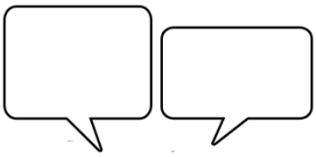
Synergy, carers – feedback

Everyone took part in a lively discussion about their experiences and several points stood out, including



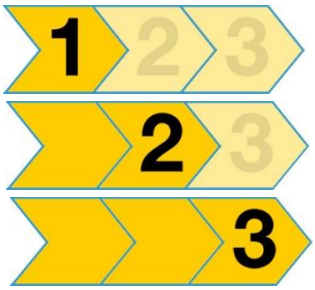
- communication and really getting to know people are very important

- having enough time to get to know individuals really well

- having the essential information

- negative experience of the **panel**

- sometimes social workers can't explain things well enough

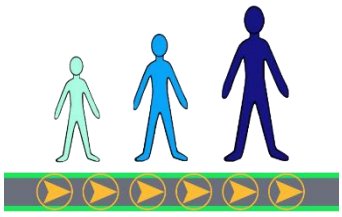


- the process of getting something done is hard to understand and often causes delays

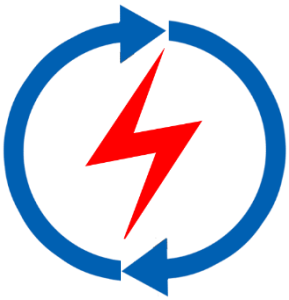
- the **named worker** idea is good but people do leave – it is important to get to know a small team

- teaching social workers about policies and the law - sometimes there is a delay while they have to find something out

- attitude to parents can be negative and bossy and this needs to be better



- there is often confusion over age limits and when **children** become **adults**, especially as the age limits can change from one service to another



- people find transitions very hard

- social workers need to know about financial matters like direct payments and be able to explain these really clearly

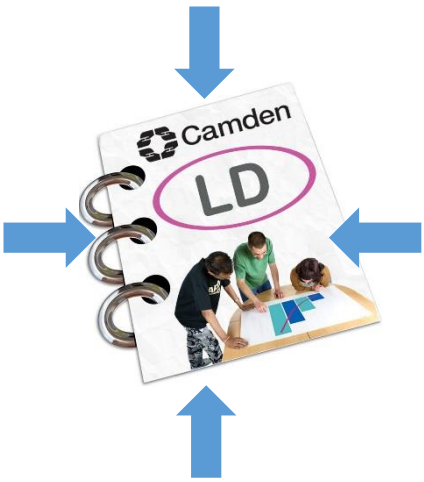
- patient representatives and Experts by Experience should be involved in the recruitment of social workers

- using a strengths-based approach is much more positive and helpful

- give people the opportunity to talk at meetings without the carer taking over

❻ The Big Plan update and review

Poppy asked each of the 6 tables in the room to look at a different section



Comments were collected and will be added to the plan

The plan will be brought back to the next Planning Together meeting for agreement

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If you have any further comments or suggestions on what we should call the plan, let Poppy know

poppy.green@camden.gov.uk

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Anything else (AOB)

Financial assessment

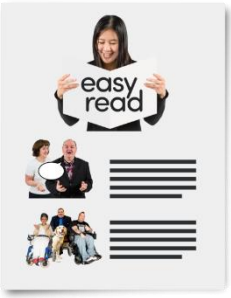
David Kinloch is the service manager for the **awards and contributions** team and **welfare rights**

David said he wanted to know what questions people most want answers to

From this, he will be able to give a more detailed update at our next meeting in **July**

People mentioned several things

Clear and easy to understand details about **money**, **direct payments**, **personal health budgets**, **housing benefits** and **other benefits**



Easy read versions are needed - **Catherine** said that some easy read versions already exist

Forms that have to be filled in should have guidelines about how to complete them and also what will happen next

Forms are complicated and do not take into account people's learning disabilities

How you come to the numbers at the bottom does not make sense

Forms should be **co-produced** with people with learning disabilities

David added that there will be some important changes coming in with Universal Credit

He also said that the **Welfare Rights team** can help with filling in forms

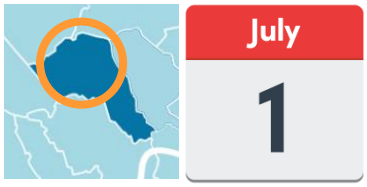
One parent said Camden has a reputation for caring more about collecting charges than delivering support

This was not a view shared by everyone

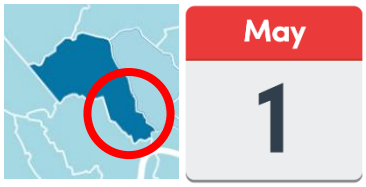
Other councils are seen as being more helpful

Floating support

Catherine Schreiber said that the new contract for floating support in the **north** of Camden will be with **Centre404**



This service will start on **1 July**



A decision about the **south** of Camden will be made by **1 May**

Everyone will get a letter explaining the changes

With regard to people with complicated needs, this is already being looked at with Centre404

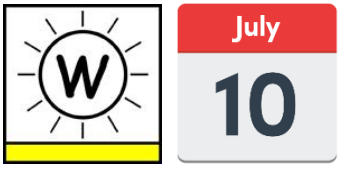
Agenda for the next meeting

The group voted for the theme for the next meeting to be

- financial assessment - David Kinloch

- floating support update

The next Planning Together meeting is



on **Wednesday 10 July 2019**

at **10am**

at
The Greenwood Centre
37 Greenwood Place
NW5 1LB