

Planning Together Meeting Wednesday 15th April 2026

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. You Said We Did

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#).

3. CLDS Updates

Social Care

- Catherine has temporarily moved for 12 months from her role as CLDS Service Manager to be a Strategic Commissioner in the Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Commissioning Team. This is called a secondment. Catherine will still work closely with CLDS.
- Nicky who is a CLDS Team Manager will be doing the CLDS Service Manager role for 12 months.
- A new Team Manager will be joining in June. They are currently working in Hertfordshire and have experience of Learning Disabilities and Adult Social Care.
- There is work being done looking at Breakaway and short breaks with Laurie who is Head of Provider Services. There will be more updates on this and they are aware there is a shortage of places in Camden.

Health

- There are lots of funding cuts and changes in the health service. For the next meeting Lynette will prepare a slide and talk more - but they know some people are leaving.
- Elyse and Cara are leaving as the Integrated Care Board (ICB) who pay for CLDS Health have stopped paying for those jobs. They have new jobs.

ACTION: Lynette to share a slide at the July Planning Together about changes to CLDS health

4. Big Plan update

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#).

- There are still talks about whether people age 14 and over are included in the Big Plan. Part of the work is talking to the Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPDS) who attend Planning Together.
- At age 14 Annual Health Checks and transition begins – this is something the government started. It is best if transition is from age 14 to prepare people for adulthood.
- They need to think whether young people need to come to Planning Together or their views can be included in another way. Once adults, they can come to Planning Together

5. Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) & Deputyships

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#).

People at the meeting discussed the following topics:

- It is about taking control and having someone you trust make decisions.
- **Safeguarding** means keeping people safe, including if there are worries about how Attorney or a Court-appointed Deputy is behaving. If someone is worried, anyone can report a concern to the Local Authority. There will be an investigation if there is enough evidence.
- **Number of Attorneys** - You can appoint more than one Attorney on an LPA. If you do, you must say how they make decisions: e.g. all Attorneys must agree every decision, any one Attorney can make a decision on their own, or different combinations for different decisions. Having Attorneys who must all agree can sometimes slow things down or cause problems if they disagree.
- **Mental Capacity** - To make an LPA, a person must have mental capacity at the time they sign it – to understand what it means. Someone may be able to make some decisions but not all e.g. you might want to manage day to day money. People need to be supported to make their own decisions wherever possible. There can be a safeguarding concern if this does not happen.
- **Witnesses** - When making an LPA, there must be a Certificate Provider who is an independent person and confirms you understand what it means, are not being forced, and there is no reason the LPA should not be made.

6. Synergy Quiz

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#).

7. Appointeeships

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#).

People at the meeting discussed the following topics:

- **Best Interests meetings** are sometimes held to help make a one particular decision for someone.
- If a person is known to CLDS, CYPDS or Adult Social Care, a qualified professional (for example a social worker or health professional) can arrange a Best Interests meeting if they think it is needed.
- These meetings can happen at any time if an important decision needs to be made. They are often used when there are different views between family members, friends or carers, and the person themselves may not have mental capacity for that specific decision.
- First, professionals must ask: can the person make this decision themselves, with the right support? Reasonable adjustments must be tried first

- **Difference between Appointees and Deputies** - Appointeeship only relates to state benefits. An Appointee receives benefit payments, usually into an account, and manages that money on the person's behalf, for example paying bills or rent.
- Deputies have wider powers because they are appointed by the Court of Protection. A Deputy may manage things like private pensions, savings, selling property, and opening or closing bank accounts (depending on what the court allows).
- Deputies are overseen by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). Appointeeship are managed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- When someone applies to be an Appointee, DWP will visit the person and ask questions, including why the Appointeeship is needed and how the person's money will be looked after.
- A person can still have some mental capacity and have an Appointee. Some people's capacity goes up and down, or they may need extra support at certain times.

8. Synergy Quiz

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#).

9. Rethink Advocacy

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#).

People at the meeting discussed the following topics:

- **Doctors Appointments** - Advocates sometimes go to people's doctors appointments. This is health advocacy. They can do little bits but advocates are not a support worker and can't go to all doctors appointment long term. They look at things case by case.
- They support with one issue to talk to the doctor about, and can help plan.
- **Waiting list** there is a few months wait for an advocate as they are a small team. If what you want does not fit with advocacy they can tell you other places you can get support

10. Talking in small groups

More information from the discussions can be found on the [Planning together website](#).

People looked at case stories and gave the following feedback:

Lucy – Help with making decisions about money

- Lucy's mum was helping her with her money. It would be helpful for someone to start helping Lucy with her money gradually whilst her mum was still there. This is future planning.
- The financial agreement or money management should be made formal

Aisha - Help with making decisions about health and wellbeing

- It is important when going to doctor to make sure you talk about pain relief. This is very important and not talked about a lot.
- Aisha did not have family to support her. They could look at deputyship and advocacy to help her with her decision about the operation.
- They could make it easier for her to communicate in different ways e.g. show her what happens in the operation, make sure she has a say, knows what will happen and is comfortable.

David - Help with making decisions about support in the future

- It is important to start thinking early, so you that time to think about the options, think about people trust to be LPA or deputy and have conversations.
- You can have different people supporting you which can be frustrating, Social Workers can leave jobs. Having a PA who can be trusted and make sure your plans are saved over a long period of time can be helpful. There is more flexibility and stability.
- Planning ahead is important and makes life easier.

11. Jargon of the day

12. Topic for the next meeting

The following topics were suggested for the next meeting

- Elections – can the elected councillor come and talk about their views and answer questions.
- How to stay safe in the community – invite the community safety worker who is coming to Healthfest
- Cool spaces reminder
- Pollution indoors - work with the Air Quality Team

13. Any Other Business

- The Monday night club is relaunching. This is relaxed and with Tom from Lisa, and Better Gyms. Ask Synergy if don't know where it is, they can meet you at Greenwood.