

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

**Notes of the Carers Steering Group meeting held
on 6th May 2015 commencing at 10.00 am in
Conference Room, Oakhill / Capital Development Room, MDEC**

Present:	<p>Ms Deirdre Walker, Asst Director Adult Safeguarding Mrs Cathy Magowan, Carer Support Co-ordinator Mrs Laura Ritchie Carers Development Worker (SS) Mrs Rosaleen Harkin, Asst Director Learning Disability Mr Martin Quinn, A/Assistant Director Physical Disability Mrs Ann McDuff, Asst Director, Women's and Children's Mrs Mary O'Neill, Carer Representative Ms Dympna McNamee, Carer Representative Mrs Mairead Coyle, Carer Representative Ms Ann Begley, Carer Representative</p>
Apologies:	<p>Ms Sylvia Crawford, Locality Services Manager (A) Mrs Mary Millar, Carers Representative Mrs Mary Moore, Carer Representative Mr John McCosker, Head of Service Residential Care, Social Work Lead Adult Mental Health</p>
	Action
1. WELCOME/CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS	
<p>Ms Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was acknowledged that there were a number of new carer's representatives in attendance at today's meeting and introductions were made.</p>	
2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	
<p>Minutes were signed off as an accurate reflection of last meeting.</p>	
4.	
<p>It was agreed not to follow the Standing Agenda but to take this opportunity to look at the Terms of Reference for the Group, roles and responsibilities and gaps.</p> <p>It was agreed that each member would give a small piece of background about themselves.</p> <p>❖ Ms Deirdre Walker – Ms Walker advised that she was acting Assistant Director Adult Safeguarding and part of her remit would be Carers</p>	

	<p>Support. She is based in PCOPS and her background is Social Work / Residential Care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mrs Cathy Magowan – Mrs Magowan advised that primarily her role as Carers Co-ordinator is to drive forward the Carers Strategy both through regional CSIG and the Trust. Mrs Magowan agreed to email the Carers Strategy to members to review. ❖ Mrs Laura Ritchie – Mrs Ritchie confirmed that her background is Nursing / Social Work Assistant and she came into post as Carers Development Worker approximately 2 years ago. Part of her duties within this role is the co-ordinating of Carers walking groups, health care events, developing booklets / leaflets, etc. ❖ Mrs Mairead Coyle - Mrs Coyle came into her caring role 4½ years ago when her husband was paralysed. She initially joined the Carers walking group. Her case study was previously shared with this group. ❖ Ms Dympna McNamee – Ms McNamee was a school principal for 26 years and is now retired. She cares for her 90 year old aunt who has dementia. She has attended training with MeUtd which she found very beneficial and a good support in her caring role. ❖ Ms Ann Begley – Ms Begley has cared for her 94 year old mother who has advanced dementia for the past 4 years. She advised that over this period she has had some very negative experiences especially around lack of understanding of dementia in hospital and felt staff needed educating / mandatory training on basics. ❖ Mrs Ann McDuff – Mrs McDuff advised her remit is Children’s Disability and she has particular interest in young carers. ❖ Mr Martin Quinn – Mr Quinn advised that he was keen to work with and engage with carers. He stated that it was fundamental to have carers representatives to bring issues forward and to give carers a voice. ❖ Mrs Rosaleen Harkin – Mrs Harkin comes from the world of Learning Disability. This is a highly dependent group pf people who could not do without the support of carers. Learning Disability does not move into Older Peoples services at 65 so there is a long time of caring which can be challenging. She referred to Unpaid Carer Voices Forum which has been established and meets 6 monthly which is quite productive. “Do not underestimate the power of the carer” ❖ Mrs Mary O’Neill – Mrs O’Neill is mother of a 26 year old with Cerebral Palsy / Learning Disabled / Autism. She has had a rare brain disorder herself for the past 6 years. Mrs O’Neill sits on the committee for Carers NI / Trust Carers Rep / Governor in Lakeview School. She has had positive and negative experiences. 	C Magowan
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	<p>❖ Ms Tara Boyle – Ms Boyle is a carer for her 64 year old mother who has MS / Crohns Disease and was recently diagnosed with vascular dementia. She advised that she has had some terrible experiences especially whilst her mother was in hospital. She finds support in the community is very good.</p> <p>Discussion took place on organising a “setting the context” development day for members / carers representatives focusing on creating a structural system for this group. This day would focus on the Terms of Reference for the group, roles and responsibilities, representation and gaps in Programmes of Care, etc.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>29th June 2015 at 2.00 pm in Conference Room, Oakhill House, Tyrone County Hospital with video link to Meeting Room 1, MDEC.</p>	

Signed: _____
 Deirdre Walker
 Asst Director Adult Safeguarding

Date: _____