



Central Improving Mind

Minutes of Meeting

18th January 2024 12.00 pm Graham Street/Zoom

Present: SR (Chair) SS FC

Also in attendance:

Apologies: MM

Minutes: MB

Previous Meeting Minutes: Agreed with no amendments.

Matters Arising: No matters arising.

Action Sheet:

Guest Speakers – AN will be inviting John from Staffordshire Mind who has requested dates. To be discussed further with the CIM yearly schedule.

Shared Learning Event – MB still looking into venues. AN is talking to SLT regarding setting up a training initiative.

2024 Schedule – MB will create a template and send to AN.

Birmingham Mind Email – Most people have emails set up. SS to have one created. AN

MZ Handover – Closed.

SU Representatives at Committee Meetings – Closed.

Training – SS has requested autism training, AN to forward details. Closed.

Tax Benefit Support – Closed.

Survey 2024: RMc to be invited to February meeting to discuss questions. Ideally, 8 core questions are to be included in the questionnaire.

Payment Policy Update: AN has requested a new expenses for which includes a line stating the service user is aware that Birmingham mind



isn't responsible for their tax or national insurance etc. AN has put out leaflets regarding this.

Allowance was discussed along with people being given the option to opt out of payment and attend meetings as an observers. Other options included people being paid by gift voucher but if this was decided, there would not be an option for some people to accept gift cards and other cash.

AN stated that national mind advice is that service users are paid by meeting not by the hour. This is an option that is used by Mind and several other organisations. The use of gift cards no higher than twenty pounds is also an option. HMRC will class this as a gift.

If anyone has questions regarding payments, they should contact the Citizens Advice Bureau as we cannot give direct advice. It is also a good idea to contact your own DWP office as they will best know your circumstances' feedback on the policy will be sent to Ruth Galvin after being presented at a future meeting of CIM. The helpline who are piloting a new type of JAG will pilot the giving of twenty-pound gift cards rather than money and this is also a possibility with executives.

Items for Future Agendas:

The new Beechcroft Manager will be invited to the March meeting.

AOB:

SS asked if Birmingham Mind would be offering a counselling service. MB will ask JH for more information on this. **MB**

It was requested that when JH isn't able to attend a meeting that he will send in a written update. **MB** to action.

Date and time of next meeting:

22nd February 2024 at Graham Street/Zoom