



Central Improving Mind

Minutes of Meeting

23rd November 2023 12.00 pm Graham Street/Zoom

Present: MM (Chair) AN JH YH FC MW

Also in attendance:

Apologies: SR

Minutes: MB

Previous Meeting Minutes: Agreed with no amendments.

Matters Arising: No matters arising.

Action Sheet:

Bullring Schedule – Provided by JH – Closed.

Guest Speakers – New recovery manager suggested, not confirmed.

MM suggested managers from other Minds be invited to speak. **AN** will look into a speaker from Staffordshire for the January meeting. - Open

December CIM at the Bullring – Confirmed and closed.

Shared Learning Event – **AN** to schedule a learning event in an upcoming meeting. **MB** to look into possible venues. - Open

2024 Schedule – To be created in January **AN.** – Open

Birmingham Mind Email – **MB** to keep track of who has been able to access their new email.

Organisational Updates:

JH discussed liaising with MZ and creating a handover to make the most of his expertise. **JH** will work on this further with MZ.

Service user representatives at Committee meetings will be discussed at a future meeting. **AN**

RR has recently gone into hospital so apologised that the training enquiries haven't been addressed, she will liaise as soon as she is well and back at work.



Ludford Road – JH discussed that the residential home on Ludford Road has reached the point where we can't continue the service there due to the building needing significant renovations. There are 6 residents who will need rehoming.

The staff looked at all options, but the conclusion was that the expenditure in addition to the removal of asbestos would not be viable as the price was in the area of £6m.

JH met with the staff and residents in September to break the news. Nothing will happen before January but JH assures that all care will be taken to ensure a smooth transition for both staff and residents.

An email informing the organisation of this news will be sent out to staff today.

AN asked if Birmingham Mind was moving away from residential care in light of Sycamore also closing and JH discussed the priority of providing the best care and buildings are an integral part of this. We still have a number of other residential houses that have no plans for closure.

It is important to pay constant attention to the state of all our buildings to prevent future deterioration.

Sycamore Lodge - There are conversations taking place regarding the Sycamore Lodge which will almost certainly involve demolition. There are also conversations about us becoming Registered Accommodation Providers.

YH asked when information about Sycamore would be released as there are concerns about vandals and squatters which present a risk to people at Beechcroft. She also asks if the building could be extended. JH feels the same, but cost and time are factors.

Head Office – We are looking to relocate the head office to another central location that is more accessible. It is also hoped to consolidate all office space to have one dedicated office space including Newtown and Quayside staff.

It will have huge benefits for staff and service users to have a central location and to improve morale. There is no firm date, but it is hoped that there will be more news next summer.

Helpline – The service is facing many challenges due to high staff turnover and the potential for staff to deal with people in crisis and receiving no other help.

Ruth Coates and Sarah Muirhead have been involved in the upcoming 111 integration which is ongoing. It is required to be live by April next year and by all accounts, the system will likely not be ready. Beechcroft and the Helpline will be a key part of the integration.

Safeguarding Working Group – JH discussed the new working group that will focus on safeguarding reports within Birmingham Mind. This will consult policies, procedures, reporting and training.

There is a lot of work to be done but work is in progress to not only achieve best practice but to have ongoing improvement.

Items for Future Agendas:

AN asked if there was any training that members would want. AN will email Suki regarding training. **AN. JH** will talk to NU regarding the possibility of CIM members taking the iHasco Safeguard training which will be organised by MB if possible.

Service User Payment Policy: The policy will be reviewed yearly and £8.50 is the current hourly payment with the hope of an increase next year. MW believes the minimum wage should be the payment given. JH discussed the various conflicts regarding tax and multiple group payments. The payment should be clarified, this should be given by NU and each person should look into their own tax/benefit status and get support where needed noting that various supporting bodies may offer differing advice. AN offered his support to group members in this matter. Each office will have its own disability officer who should be able to give trustworthy advice. AN will organize some general information sessions.

AN Asked if all service users were aware that, they needed to declare allowance to the benefits department, they all declared that they were aware. We have sent documentation out for consultation on the amount of allowance being given.



AOB:

Date and time of next meeting: 21st December 2023 at the Bullring Hub.