

Kent, Surrey & Sussex Learning Disability Community of Practice Meeting 19.10.16

Present

Anton French (AF Film), Sue Bates (East Kent Mencap & AF Film), Andy Nazarjuk (CCCU), Cathy Bernal (CCCU), Nicki Fowler (Uni of Greenwich), Julian Seal (Uni of Brighton), Claire Field (SeeAbility), Andy Fitton (MCCH), Carrie Jackson (CCCU), Sally Hardy (LSB Uni), Rebekah Quin (independent RNLD), Rags Subramaniam (EKHUFT), Rhona Westrip (HEEKSS), George Matuska (HEEKSS – chair), Daniel Marsden (EKHUFT), Trish Griffin (Kingston Uni), Alan Rosenbach (via Skype)

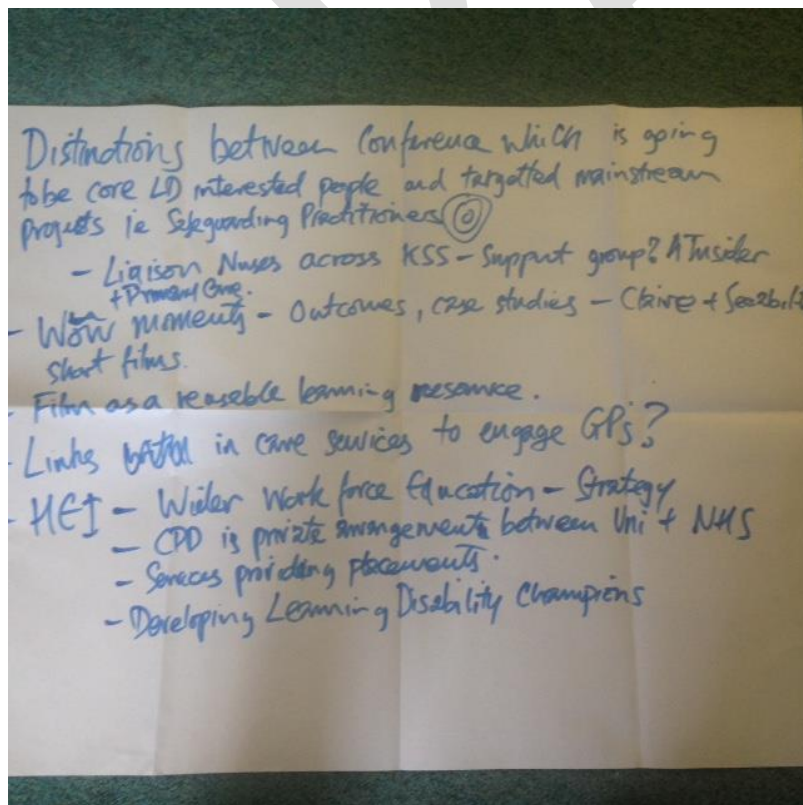
GM welcome all to the meeting, and introductions were made.

Conference evaluation

This had been completed by and was presented by Daniel Marsden – please see attached Ppt.

After presenting the summary of the positive points from the day, Daniel invited attendees to form two groups in order to consider how best to take them forward. Discussion ensued, and two flip charts were produced in illustration; they were presented by group representatives, and the attendees were thanked by DM.

In response to the themes “Participants inspirations, emotions, humanity and learning”, and “Inclusive innovative learning involving experts by experience and information technology”, Group 1 produced:



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In response to the themes “Whole system workforce network questions” and “Fun and safe environment for learning”, Group 2 produced:



Membership of the steering group

GM recounted the history of the CoP, and summarised its achievements and activities to date. However, he explained that the steering group required development in order to maintain momentum, and opened the subject up for discussion. RS stated that funding would be needed in order to make the CoP sustainable, and that consideration should be given to establishing Terms of Reference. SH commented that the CoP provides opportunities to develop the next generation of practitioners.

DM averred that the recently established support from the England Centre for Practice Development (ECPD) had proved invaluable, but that more needs to be done to achieve sustainability, including the consideration of financial support. GM commented that in future, the annual conference could implement a small charge, and described how HEEKSS had offered financial support for the 2016

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event. DM noted that funding to support appropriate leadership development would be vital.

CJ felt that the Community needed to map work around its key priorities (following their review), and link that to the blog series; linking this to the blog series would be useful. AR gave his view that the CoP required better definition, and that it needs to look beyond the annual conference to ensure more continuous sharing of knowledge. In response, GM described the CoP's other areas of work, and restated its aims.

GM also discussed the possibility of the CoP needing a project manager to aid in its goals of sustainability, the PM could then support with tangible challenges such as conferences etc. but also aid in the development of a sustainable platform/ foundation. It was agreed by all this would be useful but would require funding, RW to explore possibilities of available funding from with HEKSS.

Twitter, mailing list & website

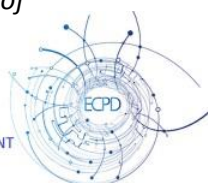
GM updated all present on the use that the CoP has made since its inception of social media. The Community currently has c.400 followers on Twitter, and c.350 individuals on its mailing list. All these people have the opportunity to share their own work and/ or that of their organisations on the CoP blog ("GRAB"). RW suggested a need to evaluate the impact of the CoP's use of social media. CJ indicated that hosting a web chat about that could be useful, in order to identify next steps. DM made a range of suggestions for achieving this. GM took the opportunity to ask those present how many of them would welcome a Twitter chat, at which point AF suggested that in order to be as inclusive as possible, several different media should be used simultaneously to the same end. NF suggested making more use of email for those who are not users of social media.

GM commented that the website, including the blog, is rather underused, and that this requires stimulation. The social media utilised by the CoP also requires management. There is research potential here, that could attract ECPD support.

GM invited RS to explain the background to the Learning Disability workshops run for EHUFT staff. RS recounted the establishment and delivery of the workshops, co-produced and facilitated by "experts by experience" on reasonable adjustments to address health inequalities. GM used this as an example to explain how the CoP could "badge" work being done in other organisations.

HEEKSS Intellectual Disability Workforce programme board hosting

RW drew attendees' attention to the recent invitation from HEKSS (<https://idhekss.wordpress.com/>) to apply for funding to support innovative education in learning disability. She stated that any resulting learning supported by HEKSS will be shared nationally. The new offer hoped to attract applications from the voluntary, independent and charitable sector in particular. The themes published by the programme board are loose guidelines only. It is uncertain whether the same financial support may be available after this year. HEKSS view the LD CoP as gaining in momentum, and that there is an important need to maintain the relationship between HEKSS and the Community. It was encouraging to note that our model is being viewed by others as a potential national model, including those working in other fields, such as mental health. GM added that the LD workshop being delivered to EKHUFT staff is to be shared shortly with the Senior Management Team of HEKSS, and also at HEE regional level.



Actions

GM's suggestion that the ideas mooted at this meeting could be addressed by working groups was welcomed. Expressions of interest would be invited from the current steering group.

DM raised the matter of the 2017 conference, and GM stated that there would be funding for elements of its organisation. All agreed on a potential date of Thursday 15th June. DM articulated the need for a conference planning group.

AOB

In response to a question from AF about whether it would be appropriate for the CoP to address wider issues such as societal change, CJ mentioned the "International Innovation Summit" being held at CCCU on 20th and 21st July 2017, which will be addressing such issues. She also mentioned that 19th October 2016 was FAB Change Day.

JS stated that there was a need to consider the impact of current developments on the LD workforce.

C. Bernal

20.10.16

DRAFT

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