

NWTDT Commissioning Group Meeting
9th November, 2004

Attending Sandy Bering (Chair)
Robbie Shanahan
Dave Spencer
Pat Rowan
Nick Morey
Val Bracken
Martin Routledge

Apologies: Anne Williams
Caroline Tomlinson

Agenda

1. Chair and Matters Arising from Last Meeting
2. Commissioning and the Rob Greig Letter
3. Progress - The Commissioning Group Process

1. Chair and Matters Arising

Anne Williams gave apologies for this meeting so Sandy Bering agreed to host and chair it.

The two main agenda items included any matters arising from the meeting held on 5th August, 2004.

2. Commissioning and the Rob Greig Letter

The group considered the effect that Rob Greig's letter would have on the commissioning of the NWTDT. The letter describes the suggested plans of the DoH, after the initial Valuing People initiative comes to an end.

Martin Routledge explained the development of the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) and how it was intended that the money previously used to fund the implementation of the VP agenda was to form part of the CSIP regional funding structure. The protection of the funding allows VP aims to be carried forward and to move on to a new phase.

Each region will have its own regional programme. Whilst high level themes follow national direction, directing implementation should be owned by local stakeholders and would be embedded in regional CSIP teams.

The NW model of having shared, jointly funded development systems is highlighted in Rob's letter as a proven success. Funding for the team, gathered through joint contributions, has always been allocated by the ADSS in conjunction with Health partners. The national direction is suggesting that the continued VP money be put together with this funding and the use of the funding be directed by CSIP. Other regions are being asked to find match funding for their VP monies and to commission development processes that have the effect that the NWTDT has had in our region over the years. If confirmed, the changes will take place in April 2006.

The group considered the implications for the Commissioning Group, the NWTDT and the NW.

- The NW and its commissioners must retain influence and ownership of the NW's development function as in the past.
- There would be benefits in working in conjunction with CSIP/Regional Task Force/ NWTDT and this representative commissioning board.
- We don't want to be doing the same task in a number of groups, we must pull things together into one group, possibly with dual functions and a split agenda.
- We must keep a strong link with our NW ADSS.
- We must keep local ownership and interest alive.
- We need to know who will be on the CSIP Board representing LD and at what level.
- We see this as a beneficial time to review the NWTDT, its members and its desired outcomes.
- Is the NWTDT, as it is structured at the moment, fit for purpose?
- We need to reconsider the implications for the host authority, at present Salford. Can we find a better organisational constitution?
- We want to be in partnership with CSIP for the future.

The group agreed to:

- Meet to map the needs of the NW in light of the regional changes (small representative group within the next few weeks).
- Try to identify and avoid destabilizing factors.
- Use the next year 2005/6 to re-position our NW approach.

Asked Valerie and Martin to:

- Review the structure and employment terms of the NWTDT.
- Suggest a model for the NWTDT that will meet today's needs.
- Keep in mind the Agenda for Change and the changes in employment terms and conditions effecting SS.

- Suggest a minimum and maximum secondment/appointment time to be a member of the NWTDT.
- Bring people with skills working across the region into the NWTDT on a limited time, task focused basis.
- Look for an evolutionary approach.
- Remember that the team hasn't just met an agenda but has been meaningful and attractive to local funders.

3 Progress on the Commissioning Group Process

After the last meeting Anne Williams put out a letter inviting ideas and comments. Valerie Bracken gave initial feedback to responses received.

There had been some considered and structured feedback from some areas. Valerie is still waiting for other groups to respond. Initial main themes coming through include:

- To reduce the numbers of network meetings.
- To try to make network meetings more outcome focused.
- To do more problem solving, helping organisations to find a way to make individualisation work; we are committed to it, how do we do it?
- To take a wider non-LD specialist approach to development.
- To look at wider system development across health and social care.

There are some specific suggestions and comments addressing themes, for example joint working, mental health and training self advocates as trainers.

There are comments about the approach that can encourage unhelpful competition, we need to aim for sharing of best practice.

The work of the team is seen as an integral part of the region's training and development, but, as a whole, we need to be clear about who does what and how the pieces fit together in the new world.

Those who have not yet responded are to do so. Valerie Bracken to chase them up and to bring the draft programme for next year to the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 11th January, 2005 in Salford.