

Notes from the Falkirk Carers' Voice meeting Tuesday 6 September 2022 at The Carers Centre, Falkirk

Present: Ruth Forrester, Lorna Blair, Theresa Parker, Hazel Wotherspoon, Pamela Young, Laura Brown, Frank Donnelly, Carol Anne Harrower, Alyson Smart, Julie Silcock

In Attendance: Laura McKenzie (Chair), Susan Docherty, Cath Brunton, Jessie-Anne Malcolm, Ami McKnight, Allan Robertson, Cat Smith, James Paterson, Lynda Wright, David Miller, Carol Findlay, Lynne McCulloch, Morven Mack

Apologies:

Laura welcomed and thanked all in attendance. Laura explained that Susan would be attending the meeting on Zoom.

Carer Issues and Concerns

Theresa highlighted their concerns with the little input from Social Work surrounding support for their son whilst they are managing their own physical health concerns. They explained that their allocated Social Worker has been off work sick and there was no replacement offered. She has been unable to access respite for three years. Theresa advised that everyone has a different idea of respite for example, the chance to have a long lie at the weekend would be beneficial to her.

Lynda Wright (Short Breaks Bureau) will follow this up with their locality team. Lynda provided a brief overview of the respite services in Falkirk and how carers can book 3 blocks of respite care at a time. She advised that Thornton Gardens will soon have 9 rooms however 3 of these will be reserved for Adult Support & Protection cases.

Hazel spoke about the limited respite and/or day services for people with complex care needs and the difficulties she has faced when sourcing support after her children were eighteen years old.

Laura advised that this can be used to highlight the concerns of carers to the Health & Social Care Partnership for their Strategy Plans.

Lynda also advised that there was a new Transitions Worker within Falkirk Council.

Frank Donnelly highlighted his concerns surrounding the lack of services within the Falkirk area. He is now looking at Self Directed Support for respite however this has been a long and difficult process for him. He is still awaiting the result of the budget for respite.

Action: Susan will begin a focus group and arrange to chat to all in attendance.

Jessie Anne highlighted that the room layout for the meeting was impersonal and all in attendance agreed to move their seats to a more open setting. Susan will take this into account at the next meeting.

Carers in attendance expressed their concerns over the lack of financial support for carers receiving a pension. This continues to be an ongoing issue that carers are raising.

Action: Raise concerns with the Coalition of Carers.

Theresa discussed the potential Cost of Living payment from Falkirk Council. Allan Robertson will look into this and refer if appropriate.

Action: Susan will investigate local payment opportunities.

Theresa also discussed the Advance Payment rising for Motability options. Hazel advised that there is a grant available for these costs as Motability is a charity. Frank advised that this grant enabled him to purchase 'extras' such as grab rails/straps for the vehicle.

Action: Susan will circulate information regarding this.

Social Work/Health/Third Sector Update

Lynda Wright (Short Breaks Bureau)

Respite services have re-opened and there are more rooms available at Thornton Gardens. In the next few weeks, a questionnaire will be sent out to see what people need to feed into the strategy and plans for respite in the future.

Allan Robertson (Social Security Scotland)

Adult Disability Payment has gone live nationally as of 29th August 2022 for new claims and there will be no new claims for PIP/DLA in Scotland. Anyone in receipt of PIP/DLA are not required to make a new claim as this will transfer over. With the transfer to Adult Disability Payment, any appointees for the people they care for will need to be appointed to Scottish Government appointee DWP.

Jessie-Anne Malcolm (NHS)

There is now a No Smoking ban on any hospital grounds and will be issued with a £50 fixed penalty if anyone is found to be doing so.

Children aged 2-5 years old will be receiving letters to be invited to the flu vaccine.

Jessie-Anne asked that anyone visiting a loved one in hospital, they should still complete a LFT before attending. These can be accessed at no charge by contacting 119 or NHS Inform.

Health and social care workers will be having their flu and fourth COVID vaccine this month and over-65s/immunocompromised will be contacted to be offered the fourth COVID vaccine. The COVID vaccine and flu vaccination can be given on the same day.

Jessie-Anne reminded those in attendance that there is a shortage of nurses and doctors, with the NHS facing a state of crisis.

FDAMH

FDAMH are seeing a huge rise in referrals and are currently in the process of hiring new staff.

Food Train

Food Train are open for referrals and have provided information/leaflet on AgeWell to the meeting.

Recruitment of IJB Carer Representative

Carol-Anne Harrower has put herself forward to be the IJB Representative and Laura explained the process for this and the training delivered by Susan. Carol Anne presented her case to all those in attendance and her relevant experience. All carers agreed at the vote and Susan will make contact with Carol-Anne regarding the next IJB Meeting.

Carer Representative Training and Updates

AOB