



**Disability Focus Group**  
**Friends Meeting House, Oxford Place**  
**31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 @ 1.30pm**

**Attendees**

Vivien Binks            SLHD Community Engagement Officer  
Helen Butler            SYCIL ENABLE Advocacy Service Co-ordinator  
Dawn Gibson            SYCIL Volunteer Mentor for Choosing Independence  
Sandy Rimmer            DMBC Wellbeing Officer  
Shirley Faulkner  
David Flint  
Marlboro Gamble  
Mrs Barbara Hankinson  
Mrs Joan Hartland  
Mr Norman Hayes  
Frank Knapton MBE  
Dave Leadenham  
J Ling  
James Loadwick  
John Jack Parks  
Mr & Mrs Pearson

**Apologies**

Mrs Mary Ashton  
Mr T Attack  
Mrs Corney  
Keith Jobson  
Audrey Slack  
Robert Snashall  
Diane Wardley  
Barbara Wild  
Jennifer Wordsworth

**Welcome and Introduction**

Vivien Binks welcomed all attendees, explained Housekeeping and distributed the Agenda and Minutes in large print.

**Helen Butler - SYCIL ENABLE Advocacy Service Co-ordinator**

Helen Butler explained her job role, and told the group that SYCIL is a user-led, Third Sector organisation that promotes Independent Living for Disabled People. SYCIL offers Advocacy, Occupational Therapy Assessments, Aids, Adaptations, and training in the following subjects:

- Disability Equality
- Basic Employment responsibilities – employing Personal Assistants etc
- Confidence Building / Assertiveness
- Moving & Handling for Personal Assistants

Helen explained that SYCIL are now offering new Services:

- *Debbie Henry* is working with people who have mobility problems or are feeling isolated, in order to get them active.

- *Nicola Siddell* is a Physiotherapist who is working in the community.

- *Peer Mentoring Service* is now delivered by Volunteers with disabilities, who have experience of Personal Budgets. SYCIL are currently recruiting for more Volunteers to deliver this Service.

Dawn Gibson advised that she is working voluntarily for the SYCIL Choosing Independence project. She also delivers Disability Equality training, and helps at outreach events. Choosing Independence is a SYCIL project that supports individuals through the Personalisation agenda, the previous Governments initiative offering direct personal choice in individual Social Care, administered through the Local Authority. The intention is to offer more choice, independence and control, so that resources can be used more effectively and fairly. SYCIL can offer initial advice and information / guidance on the Personalisation system. You can contact their Choosing Independence team on:

*Freephone 0800 046 7236 Or landline 01302 892949*

Frank Knapton raised a query regarding provision of an additional outside step. Helen Butler advised that there are other Independent advisors apart from DMBC Social Services and SYCIL, these include the British Legion and some Unions.

### **Sandy Rimmer – DMBC Wellbeing Officers**

Sandy explained her work within DMBC Community & Carers Development Team, offering a service for vulnerable people aged over 18, their carers and relatives, and providing information and access to social care. People can self-refer to the service, and Wellbeing Officers can signpost to other appropriate agencies.

Sandy also explained that DMBC and Age UK are supporting the Fund for Older People. The Fund assists groups that are providing services and activities for older members of the community or where the majority of the group members are over 55 years. The purpose of the Fund is to promote and encourage social support and independence. It is given on a one-off basis so that it is flexible enough to respond to changing needs each year. Groups applying for Funding should:

- Involve the local community
- Demonstrate a need for services and develop areas of unmet need
- Show that the project will be effectively managed
- Keep records to show how the money has been spent

The maximum amount of Funding awarded is £500.

*The Contact Telephone Number for Wellbeing Officers is 01302 737391*

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were passed as a true and accurate record by Norman Hayes, seconded by John Parkes, and no objections to this were made by the group.

### **Matters Arising**

Vivien Binks distributed copies of the SLHD Free Tenant Training Programme 2011. She explained that the Community Engagement Team are now working on the Programme for 2012, and would like feedback on the format of the Programme and Courses offered. A general discussion followed, with the group querying the meaning of terms such as “E-Learning” and suggesting that each Course is described and explained in simple laymans’ terms.

A general discussion followed about the safety of driving Mobility Scooters, as people were given the keys for the machine with no training. Vivien Binks advised that John Burke has provided Disability Information Packs and a DVD "Freedom to Ride", which explains the responsibilities of using a Mobility Scooter, offering help and advice about the law when using the machine in public places. Vivien distributed these to members of the group.

Helen Butler distributed information regarding the SYCIL Mobility & Adapted Vehicles Exhibition on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Vivien informed the group that South Yorks Police were holding their "Get Lifewise (Over 50s) Safety Event on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October at the Lifewise Centre, Hellaby, Rotherham. This is an all-day free event with Lunch and assistance with travel.

The Parliamentary Outreach Team is holding a Parliament Week between 31<sup>st</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November. Venues include Manchester and London.

**Any Other Business**

Frank Knapton thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting.

**Time and date of next meeting**

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 1.30pm**