

# Planning Together Meeting

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

### 2. You Said We Did

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#).

### 3. CLDS Updates

- Molyn Kapuya introduced herself as the new Head of CLDS and Mental Health.
- Richard Lohan left last week, he was at the council a long time and everyone wished him the best. Jane Saunders will continue to do the accessible information work - but Jane is now the only person doing that work.
- There will be a new service for people who have problems throwing things away. It is not set up yet, but it will be really good to talk about it at Planning Together.

### 4. Job Hub update

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#). A summary of the discussion points are here:

#### LD Job Hub

- 6 of the 7 people the LD Job Hub supported into employment are still in their roles. 1 isn't as they were on a 6 month placement. There is a whole range of jobs - administration, construction, retail, and working in cafes, bars or hotels.
- The LD job hub service offer support to get ready for work, and in-work support. This makes sure people are happy and supported in their roles. There is no time limit on this support. They can also link people in with benefits advice with easy-read materials and one-to-one support.
- Accessing the LD job hub - Referrals come through CLDS from social workers or support workers. They are also at Greenwood on Wednesdays and online. The previous drop-in service has ended but people can still leave their details at reception.

#### PIP and Connect to Work

- The government have plans to make it harder to access Personal Independence Payment (PIP). One reason they said is that they will increase job support.
- They did speak with the LD job hub at Good Work Camden.
- There will be a new service called Connect to Work that will start nationally, with local teams. This is different to the LD Job Hub and Job Centre Job Coaches. It is short-term and voluntary
- It will be good for the LD Job Hub to link in with the local Connect to Work teams.
- Camden Disability Action were also invited working groups to help design the employment support. It was not full co-production and there's no guarantee their input will be acted on, but they will try their best to shape with the voices of local residents.

## **ACTION: Discuss the changes with PIP and Connect to Work at the agenda planning meeting**

### **5. Short breaks**

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#). A summary of the discussion points are here:

Short breaks are opportunities for people to take time away from their usual home life, and hopefully have a fun and exciting time. The family also have a break as well and time to recharge. Small group discussed what was currently good, what was challenging, and what a really good offer would look like. A summary of ideas discussed in small groups is here:

Current spaces - not enough spaces, they need 20–30 beds. There should be separate services for emergencies and planned breaks, more respite spaces across local areas and short breaks at weekends, holidays, evenings. What happens if pre-booked is cancelled for emergency? This has been a challenge in Camden for a long time, and particularly difficult after the pandemic.

Including people / the right support – they need spaces for people with PMLD, wheelchair accessible (changing tables, beds) - Shared Lives is not suitable for this. Breakaway options for different needs e.g. different services for children, young people, adults, older adults, day/evening options without overnight stay

Activities and the environment - Trips out, cinema, bowling, eating out, having fun and meet others, holidays. Also learning new skills but keeping routines. There should be colourful, inviting spaces where people have their own bathrooms, access to swimming pools, gyms, sensory rooms. A garden space is important.

Support and Staffing - 24/7 support needed (not just 9–5), more staff training for complex needs, great staff are essential, they should work with providers across the region - including Islington and North Central London.

Planning and Flexibility - Transition plans, pre-visit to build trust, have a say in planning breaks.

Family and Carer Support – Breaks with other families, carer burnout – what support is in place?

One carer gave a big thank you to short breaks and breakaway, it 'saved their lives' in terms of not coping when their daughter was living at home, she is now in supported living. It got her used to the idea of moving away from home. Though there were issues with age groups differing greatly, and staffing issues.

### **6. Wikis**

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#). A summary of the discussion points are here:

- Can there be a video of the wiki website? The address as easy as can make it [rixwiki.org/camden](http://rixwiki.org/camden). People can ask for help if they are really finding it hard. There is also the IT café for support with Fatima. It is 10am on a Monday and anyone can drop in.
- Camden Disability Action have just got funding for a digital champion. There will be interviews next week, so there will be a lot more digital support at Greenwood.
- Private wiki – no one else can see these without you inviting them by email. You can have different things on there e.g. about jobs.
- Private wikis need a password. If you use the same equipment each time you can save the password details, but you do need one otherwise it is not safe or private.
- Public wikis are really for Camden, and not for promoting other organisations but you could have one for activities for example Unity Works, Centre 404
- Jane Saunders is the person to contact if you have an questions - [Jane.Saunders@camden.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Saunders@camden.gov.uk)

## 7. Synergy

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#). Small groups discussed how information could be made easier. A summary of the ideas from small groups are here:

### Communication Methods

- Verbal: Talking, phone calls, voicemail notes, Facetime, WhatsApp video calls.
- Written: Emails, WhatsApp messages, leaflets (post/email/WhatsApp), newsletters, local newspapers.
- Visual & Signed: British Sign Language, Makaton, visual minutes, easy-read PDFs, billboards, bus stops.
- Face-to-Face: Drop-ins, support workers, community groups, Fatima's café IT sessions.

Accessible & Inclusive - Use plain English, no abbreviations. Slower, clearer communication. Multiple formats for different needs. Include people with complex needs and those who are non-verbal, preferred communication cards, make sure all information is quality checked.

Getting online - Promote and explain wikis (especially in libraries), offer more IT skills sessions, access to technology for people using services and support services.

Information Sharing - Use social media, local newspapers, libraries, and creative methods (e.g., billboards). Create a network of information sharing leads (e.g. from Planning Together), provide summaries and links after meetings, keep Local Offer and Camden Care Choices updated and separate for adults and children.

How we work - Focus meeting minutes on actions in bold and summaries, minimum standards for workers, staff should attend accessible information sessions. Think through methods of communication carefully.

## 8. Stay Cool

Please see slides on the [Planning together website](#). – including details of Cool Spaces. A summary of the discussion points are here:

- Providers have detailed plans regarding hot temperatures in Supported Living e.g. support, daily checks, portable air conditioning.
- Working together – the council send out heat alert because it is important to share but what extra information could be shared that is more useful e.g. where to find cool spaces
- The Stay Cool information is really useful and it is good to have easy read copies to take out.
- They should check all providers are doing the same thing in Supported Living and Community Support, and keeping cool especially at night.
- There should be information stands in all the places mentioned and signposting.
- The Stay Cool leaflet is on the blue card – promote this.

**ACTION: Add stay cool places to the wiki**

#### 9. Cllr Wright – feedback for the council

- Meeting members vote in favour of getting Gig Buddies locally if Camden can find the money

**ACTION: Feedback from Councillor Wright will be sent around after meeting. If anyone has any questions or comments please contact [louise.roberts@camden.gov.uk](mailto:louise.roberts@camden.gov.uk)**

#### 10. Topic for the next meeting

The following ideas were suggested for future meetings:

- Family planning and bereavement
- Accessing the events and activities e.g. going out at night. Hear from team that plan events in Camden. Changing places would need to stay open later to make sure they are accessible.
- Welfare Rights - what is happening with benefits changes
- Big plan - ends 2025. Look at things we care about. Can this follow on from the feedback and become the new Big Plan
- Update on the carers action plan
- Anti social behaviour – if you have a complaint and how to do that. Melyn will be looking at anti-social behaviour in the new role. A lot of issues and concerns have been brought up.

#### 11. Any Other Business

Thanks you to everyone who came to Healthfest. There were over 250 people and it was a very enjoyable day. The agenda is planned around what everyone would like.