

Learning Disabilities at COT



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Professional Affairs Officer

Learning Disabilities and Mental Health



Introduction

- Role of the Professional Affairs Officer for Learning Disabilities
- What has happened so far and future plans



Responsibilities of the Professional Affairs Officer

- To keep updated with learning disability policy and legislation across all the UK countries
- Liaison with Policy Officers in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland
- To provide advice, information, training materials and other products to assist with new policy, legislation and best practice
- To develop and maintain professional networks with key organisations and government departments to ensure representation at key events



Responsibilities continued.

- To work closely with COTSS –PLD
- To ensure COT responds quickly to issues of concern to COT members and service users in the area of LD
- To promote service innovation
- To assist with projects related to learning disability



LD Policy and Legislation

- Northern Ireland www.dhsspsni.gov.uk
 - A Fair Chance (2002) DHSSPS
 - Distribution of LD services (2004)
 - Currently developing service framework
- Scotland www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health
 - The Same as You? (2000)
 - Advocacy, children services and day services
 - The Adult Support and Protection Act (2007)
- Wales www.new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health
 - Fulfilling the Promises (2001)
 - Guidance on Service Principles and Responsibilities (2004)



LD Policy and Legislation

- England www.dh.gov.uk
 - Valuing People (2001) DH currently being “refreshed” by Ivan Lewis (Under Secretary of State for DOH)
 - Improving Work Opportunities (2006) DWP
 - Progression through Partnership (2007) – further education DH, DWP, DfES
 - Good Practice Guidance on working with parents with a LD (2007) DH
 - Having a Good Day? (2007) SCIE www.scie.org.uk
 - Green paper next year about the long term funding of adult social care



COTSS-PLD

- Regular meetings with the NEC of the Specialist Section and chairperson
- Establish links between different COTSS e.g transitions briefing
- COT reliance on time, energy and effort of COTSS-PLD, recruit new members
- COTSS-PLD Newsletter
- Reciprocal relationship



Developing Strategic Alliances

- Learning Disability Coalition – COTSS – PLD Newsletter
- Formed May 2007 – result 18 months of work by 10 charities
- Mencap main driver
- Main aim is to lobby government for more resources for LD services



Learning Disability Coalition continued.

- On-line petition
www.learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk
- Consultation on the “refresh” of Valuing People (2001)
- Collecting ammunition – want examples of service cuts, redundancies – anonymous
- Email
h.honour@learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk or
genevieve.smyth@cot.co.uk



Strategic Alliances

- Mencap – Changing Places Consortium
www.changing-places.org
- Royal College of Nurses Learning Disability Forum
- Future work with Valuing People support team and Rob Greig
- Networks key part of developing influence (Cook 2007)



Challenging Behaviour – A Unified Approach

- Royal College of Psychiatrists, British Psychological society, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (2007)
- Clinical and service guidelines
- Not an all-inclusive document, authors want further discussion to contribute to revisions
- Nothing about OT, nursing or physio role



Developing Email network

- Email network of OT strategic leads and managers in LD services
- Aims to communicate quickly with each other around the country, share info, queries, strengthen position
- Need more names!



Mental Capacity Act (2005) England and Wales

- MCA Briefing – members part of website, professional practice
- Implications for OTs
- Everybody's responsibility to be able to assess capacity and make best interest decisions
- Independent Mental Capacity Advocate
- Deprivation of Liberty issues for PLD (Mental Health Act 2007)
- College led sessions at COT conference



COTSS-PLD Audit of Practice

- Work by Dr. Rebecca Pockney
- End of the project –launch, dissemination, implementation



What can you do?

- Ammunition for LD Coalition
- Sign LD Coalition petition
- Contact me! 0207 450 5220
- Think about volunteering for NEC COTSS-PLD
- Write for newsletter, OTN, learning disability page on COT website
- Join the email network



Summary

- Role of Professional Affairs Officer
- Update of work so far and future directions
- How you can help
- Comments or questions?



Reference

- Cook R (2007) *Awareness and Influence in Health and Social Care –How you can really make a difference*. Oxon, Radcliffe Publishing