

MINUTES OF THE PEMBROKESHIRE ACCESS GROUP MEETING
HELD AT PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S OFFICES ON 9TH MARCH
2017

PRESENT: Liz Cartwright, Marilyn Pope, Alan Hunt, Jessica Hatchett, Beryl Thomas-Cleaver, Jeremy De Wilton, Frank Heasman, Maisie Jakeway, Stuart Merritt, Gethin Morris, Margaret Baron, Eva Rich, Ian Hatchett, Rhiannon Hicks.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Henry Langen, Annette Peter, Rex Codd and Bill Cleevely.

Setting up a Centre for Independent Living – Rhiannon Hicks from Disability Wales

Rhiannon Hicks is the Development Officer for Disability Wales, Enabling Wales Project. She talked to us about setting up a Centre for Independent Living (CIL). A CIL is usually run by disabled people and could be set up as a business co-operative as well as being a registered charity.

CILs are usually not for profit organisations with any profits going back into the organisation. They are also often set up as a charity to open up funding opportunities.

Rhiannon mentioned Dewis CIL which has a main office in Pontypridd and a branch in Milford Haven. They have a building where disabled people can visit and find out about at the services available in an area and they get their income from offering services such as advocacy, consultancy work and training.

At the moment Dewis is the only CIL in Wales but two more are opening soon. Pembrokeshire People First is also a CIL for people with learning difficulties and autism in Pembrokeshire.

Having a building as a base helps build an identity and we would share knowledge as we do now but on a larger scale as well as providing services.

The CIL would bring together people with a common vision and would be pan disability. We could employ disabled people to operate the CIL.

CILs can provide:

- Information and advice
- Training and consultancy
- Work experience for students
- Volunteering opportunities
- Advocacy Services
- Direct payments advice
- Counselling services

Other topics could include health care, personal assistants, housing, access to

wheelchairs, community transport and employment opportunities.

There are 12 things that a CIL can tackle over time. These are:

- Access to health care
- Personal assistants
- Housing
- Easy access to equipment
- General access issues
- Community Transport
- Give up to date information
- Advocacy
- Education opportunities
- Employment training and support
- Counselling

We could initially target one or two of these areas.

How to start setting up a CIL.

- Make sure that people in Pembrokeshire want it.
- Have a clear mission.
- Engage and recruit people who are experts eg marketing etc.
- Be active and become involved with other organisations.
- Look at ways to make money.
- Become partners with other organisations and businesses etc. and find a way to be of benefit to them.
- Produce a business plan for 3 to 5 years. This will help to get funding.
- We will need:
 - An identity
 - A Name
 - Address and phone number
 - Equipment
 - Staff – volunteers at first till we can get funding
 - Business support eg from Wales Cooperative Centre.
- Visit other CILs and look at their websites
- Register as a business Limited by guarantee (Wales Cooperative Centre will advise on this)
- Have a clear aim of what we want to offer

We should also carry out a feasibility study (PLANED has funds for this) and heavily promote it at the Big Access Talk.

Disability has produced an Enabling Wales Toolkit which will be available soon to help us get started.

Beryl said it will take a long time to get started.

Gethin Morris, Jeremy and Stuart's support worker said PPF is already a CIL for

adults with learning difficulties or autism.

Matters Arising

1. Annette pointed out that her apologies were not recorded for the last meeting.
2. Alan contacted Angela Miles about the reported problem of some people not being able to hire a beach wheelchair. Angela did not know who had reported this but Alan has found that it was Cleo Brown of Celtic Quest Coasteering. An email has been sent to try and find out what the issues are.
3. Margaret said there was a solicitor by Thomas Picton School. Jessica Hatchett going to look at businesses.
4. Alan Hunt to get back to the Council about the potholes along the path which leads from Westfield Road near Eva's house in Saundersfoot to the village.
5. Bus buddies are looking for volunteers. Eva has contacted them to see what they do and might contact them again when they are fully up and running.
6. Ian Hatchett attended the wheelchair passport training at Portfield School in Alan's place. The programme assesses people wheelchairs and then a wallet is issued with information about the user and about such things as the correct anchor points on their wheelchair.
7. Margaret said some taxi firms refuse people who have no clamping or anchor points. Pembrokeshire County Council does not keep a list of taxis. Alan meeting with licensing to ask about what they are going to do about it. This item to go on next Agenda.

Pembrokeshire People First

The report was read out by Jeremy as follows:

- PPF is delighted that we will be working with the Access Group delivering learning disability and autism training in the summer.
- PPF is also excited about the Big Access Talk, and is trying to get nominations from our members for the Access Awards.
- We would like to ask that flyers are easier to understand, and for more information about how access for people with learning disabilities is going to be included in the day.
- PPF held its Manifesto Day at the end of last month. This is the day where members tell PPF what they want us to focus on. It was very well-attended. Our members were very positive about what we do. And they gave us some ideas of other things they want us to develop in the next 2

years. These include:

- a. Giving PPF a stronger social element as people with learning disabilities often find it hard to get out and involved
- b. Stronger links to other groups and organisations
- c. A new members group to feed ideas into the PPF Management \committee
- d. PPF healthy living group
- e. Creative opportunities (e.g. arts & crafts, dancing, singing, filming, gaming)
- f. More volunteering and training for members

Now the staff will need to look to see if these are possible, how to fund them and how to develop them.

- PPF would also like to remind members of the Access Group about some great free training our friends at Clynyfw are putting on:

Free Human Rights Training!

- a. The leading human rights charity, the British Institute of Human Rights, is putting on a FREE workshop/training day in Cardigan on 21st march, hosted by Clynyfw Care Farm and Small World Theatre. This is an excellent opportunity to get up to date on how the Human Rights Act affects us all, and to take part in topical debate.

Places are limited.

For more information and to book visit

<https://www.bihhr.org.uk/Event/human-rights-tour-cardigan-wales>

Liz Cartwright – New Plans, Special Care Baby Unit at Glangwili Hospital.

1. Liz Cartwright brought along plans for the development of the Special Baby Unit at Glangwili hospital. The Access Group gave feedback on the plans and suggested easy-read signage and paint contrasts.

Community Voice Project

1. Jessica has sorted adverts in the Tenby Observer (four for the price of three). She's also arranged two full page adverts in the County Echo.
2. She has spoken to Jamie Owen's agents and has asked for dates that he can come to meet us.
3. Booking enquiries are coming in quickly.
4. Welsh translations for the websites and adverts are also fairly quick.
5. Information has been gathered from the NHS, social services, PACTO for the Accessible Pembrokeshire website.
6. A team of five people with learning disabilities are helping to put information together each week.

Volunteers are needed to meet and greet people, sit on the registration desk, issue delegate packs, show people to seats, etc.

Delegate packs (and any contents) will be delivered to Jessica (and Ian) to sort.

Correspondence

1. Information received about the rights of way improvement plan consultation for Pembrokeshire Tracey mentioned about an initiative in Carmarthen by the visual impairment (VI) community called "Happy to Help". Businesses have signed up to the scheme and display a notice in their windows to let customers know. People with a visual impairment carry cards to let shopkeepers know what assistance they need.
2. Information received from Charlotte Scott Sloan of Leonard Cheshire Disability – They have a fund to help young disabled people to achieve and retain their independence – Jessica asked Alan to forward it to her.
3. Tesco has a fund called Bags of Help, which is helping Hubberston Hall to redecorate. Jessica said would it be useful for the Access Group.

Treasurer's Report

There was no report this month. Henry is finding it difficult to maintain his position of Treasurer at the moment due to ill health. Beryl asked Alan to speak to Bill Cleevely to see if he could help until the next AGM. Ian said he could help, but after discussion it was decided that conflicts of interest could become an issue with Ian's contractual commitments to the Group and therefore Ian's offer was reluctantly declined. Alan and Jessica will explore other options, possibly employing a book keeper in the short term to produce a simple monthly report..

Any other business

1. Jessica will take a cheque to PAVS to pay for our membership and get a receipt.
2. Ian said there is a drop-kerb leading into the disabled parking bay at the Cleddau Bridge Office Car Park which keeps getting obstructed by vehicles. Alan will visit and report back to us.
3. Alan will not be able to attend the next meeting (April 13th) because he will be on holiday. Beryl suggested that the meeting should be moved to another date in April but the only one available to Alan would be April 27th which is too near the next meeting on May 11th. It was decided to use the date for an extra Community Voice meeting and to progress the Big Access Talk. All members are welcome to attend.

Meeting closed 4pm.