

Speak Up Be Heard



Date : Wednesday 6th July 2022

Venue : Highcroft Centre

Present:		Apologies:	
J	TAAA - Co-Chair		
V	TAAA	P	Highcroft
L	TAAA	J	Cambridge Road
R	TAAA	M	Cambridge Road
K	TAAA		Oakenholt Centre
D	Eastham - Co-Chair		
T	Royden Park		
L	Dale Farm		
M	Pensby Wood		
A	Best Bites		
T	Best Bites		
A	Cambridge Road		
R	Cambridge Road		
C	Cambridge Road		
C	Cambridge Road		
M	Cambridge Road		
C	Heswall		
S	Heswall		
P	Heswall		
L	Heswall		
S	Heswall		
Lorraine Moran	Wirral Evolutions		
S	Wirral Evolutions		
Guest:			
Jean Stephens			
Managing Director	Wirral Evolutions		

1) Introductions and Apologies

D welcomed everyone and apologies were noted.

A introduced himself as a new person from Bluebelles and everyone welcomed him to the group.

Lorraine ran through some health and safety details about Highcroft Centre for people who had not been there before.

2) Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

All agreed minutes from the last meeting were right - proposed by L and seconded by S.

3) Wirral Evolutions update and where we will host future Speak Up Be Heard meetings

Jean said it was good to meet everyone face-to-face again.

She has been working with Council officers to make sure that everything runs smoothly when Wirral Evolutions transfers back into the Council at the end of September.

The staff consultation is happening now. Jean reassured everyone it doesn't mean losing any staff but it is a legal process we have to do.

Venue for next meeting

T mentioned that Royden Park has a lot of outdoor space with a large cabin in case it rains. L felt this was a good suggestion.

As Oakenholt had no-one here today, it was suggested to go there next time - maybe go around the centres with the lowest attendance to pick people back up into the group again.

All voted and agreed - next meeting at Royden Park, then Oakenholt in September.

Action : Lorraine to arrange with Oakenholt to host in September



4) Activities we can get involved in

J said the Council have asked TAAA to be involved in some new projects, like Public Health's Strategy for Health and Well Being.

They are looking for groups to talk to about it and share ideas and J suggested the SUBH group. L and S both said they would be interested. More on this to follow at a later date.

V mentioned the regeneration project from New Brighton to Seacombe discussed last month - just to remind everyone the consultation process is still open but not for much longer.

C asked about certificates for courses she had already done. Lorraine advised her to check with her centre staff.

5) Inviting Pranay Chakravorti, temporary commissioner for all age disabilities, to talk about the all-age disabilities service review

J explained that at the last Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee meeting, the council agreed to review the All-Age Disability Service.

P is the temporary commissioning lead for this so J asked if the group wanted to invite him to a future SUBH meeting - all said yes.

Jean said that when we are part of the Council again, her job will change and the All-Age Disability Service will be part of it. She will know more in a month or two, but if this is part of her role, she promised that Speak Up Be Heard will be involved.

Lorraine mentioned that this is also National Co-production Week - the theme is "The Impact of Co-production."

Co-production is people or groups working together on something from start to finish, for example J and D as the Co-chairs, or this group talking to each other and sharing feedback with and from others at their centres.



Sports day was suggested as co-production project to try again. L thought it would be safer to start slowly, in small steps, getting used to face-to-face meetings again first, so maybe leave it for this year.

K agreed it would be at least September before it could be organised, when the weather would be turning cooler - better to start planning for next Summer.

J assured everyone that G is very aware that SUBH want to be included co-production and involved with the Sports and Leisure Department. He knows this is right.

6) How we can update other people with what is happening at Speak Up Be Heard

It was noted that there's still an issue with everyone getting to see the meeting minutes.

Lorraine is now checking in centre audits if minutes are up on their noticeboards. Everyone needs to use their weekly meetings to get their voices heard, the same as they do here, and with people going back to multi-services communications should improve.

L suggested creating a Speak Up Be Heard Newsletter which is a great idea to think about in the future.

J said that even if people don't come to meetings, they can still get involved in self-advocacy. She was concerned that on a previous visit to Highcroft, she was told a self-advocacy service had been set up but was disbanded.

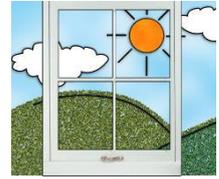
L reminded everyone about the video clip she made for the Wirral Evolutions website and said she personally felt she has come so far, thanks to Speak Up Be Heard - all agreed.

J reminded everyone about the invitation that M made for a previous meeting and did an excellent job.

D mentioned he visited Pensby last year with TAAA, as part of the Best Value Exercise commissioned by G, and M was one of the people they interviewed.



Summer 2023



V took the opportunity to thank everyone who took part in that exercise, including some from Eastham, as this was the first face-to-face meeting we've had since.

7) Anything else

M asked when the pool at Pensby will be fixed as everyone there really misses it.

Lorraine said we were hoping it would be fixed by now. Jean added that meetings are happening with the Council about it but there is no news yet. She urged the group to use their voices and contact their own local councillors and tell them what it means to them.

K suggested that Pensby Team Leader V could support M to send an email to Dr Ivan Camphor, the local Councillor for Pensby and Thingwall.

V and J echoed how important it is for people to speak up for themselves. So far, their parent/carers have more of a voice. People need to speak up, shout out and be louder to make themselves heard - help others to help them not be ignored.

There was a discussion about how to help people 'speak up' nonverbally. K said as D went to school with some people that attend Pensby, he may be able to suggest ways to help them communicate.

C and C both asked if there was any news on a new minibus for wheelchairs. Lorraine advised not yet, but that management are currently looking at all transport.

R mentioned that TAAA meet online on Thursday evenings with self-advocates from other countries, like America and Canada. V said if people were interested she could give S the link to pass on to everyone.

8) Wirral Evolutions Consultative Board

Jean said that a lot has changed since March when it was decided to have a Consultative Board. The Council person working on it has now left and Jean has a larger role.



Communicate



She is reviewing the Terms of Reference for the group with the Council - Wirral Evolutions were not involved in producing them before and they were not right.

J and V were concerned that people voted for as representatives from this group had heard nothing since and now Terms are being looked at without them being involved. Jean assured them that no-one has been left out - nothing is up and running yet.

The basic Terms of Reference need to be put right first. They need to be clear about the purpose of the group, the membership and the roles of people involved, for the group, the Council, Wirral Evolutions and the people we support.

There are two parts to the process:

- The smooth transfer of the company back into the Council
- Improving services after the transfer is complete

The second part is where co-production comes in and people who use the services will have a say in co-designing how they are run in the future. Everyone involved should hear something soon.

9) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 3rd August 2022 :
10.30am - 12pm at Royden Park

Lorraine added a big thank you to Highcroft as the meeting venue for today and to BestBites for providing food for everyone.

D closed meeting at 12pm for celebration sandwiches and cakes.

