



## **DPUF Meeting: 1 PM, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024**

Minutes of meeting held at Winkfield Resource Centre

### **Attendees:**

Priti N (PN), Numukyala H (NH), Victoria D (VD), Pam J (PJ), Isha T (IT), Gullu K (GK), Orkun S (OS) Osman D (OD), Mennassie Y (MY), Graham D (GD), Arinola P (AP), Paul G (PG), Jackie A (JA), Jacintine O (JO), Yasmin J (YJ), Yasmin V (YV), Lydia S (LS), Hughphazine S (HS) Greig C (GC).

### **Minutes:**

#### **Welcome and Introduction**

- GC welcomed members to the meeting.
- GC explained the function of DPUF and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
- Minutes of the Sept 2024 meeting were reviewed.

#### **Discussion**

- GC opened the floor to discuss the benefits that Direct Payment Holders receive from the service, offering an opportunity for participants to share their positive experiences. This allowed Direct Payment Holders to highlight the value direct payments add to their financial management and overall convenience. The feedback from the group was overwhelmingly positive, with DP holders sharing insightful and appreciative comments.



- Direct Payment members expressed positive feedback on the services offered by Disability Action Haringey, highlighting the support and benefits they receive from the organization in meeting their individual needs.
- DP members identified needs to be included in their support plan. Some individuals have not received their support plan from the social workers.
- PJ and Priti Naik mentioned that individuals have not received a review in over a year. YV will take this up and revert to PJ and Priti Naik
- PJ mentioned that she has not received a Carer's review in over a year. YV clarified that currently, our service provides information through a letter, encouraging carers to reconnect with social services. However, this approach isn't always effective, as carers may read the letter, set it aside, and not follow up to request an assessment, even when it becomes necessary later.

#### News / Updates:

London Living Wage is currently **£13.85 per hour in the year October 2024-2025**. This covers all boroughs in Greater London. This increased from £13.15ph in the previous year, October 2023-2024.

Once you reach state pension age (currently 66) and you begin to receive your government state pension, **Carer's Allowance will stop**. This is because you can only effectively receive one benefit, and you cannot effectively receive both. Further information can be viewed on the government website: [Carer's Allowance: Eligibility - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/carer-allowance-eligibility)

**Action Items:** Action points emerged from the discussion regarding personal circumstances. YV will review the situation and follow up.

#### Personal Assistant's Event:

GC invited LS to brief the members about the upcoming Cares Event organized in collaboration with DPUF. LS outlined plans for a coffee meet-up, where Direct Payment holders' PAs, along with other PAs, can share experiences and network. We encourage our DP members to bring their PAs to the next event.



## **Announcement of Next Meeting**

- GC thanked the members for attending.
- Next meeting: 1:00 PM Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024.

## **Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned by GC
  - Refreshments and Networking
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