



Making it Real Update – 11th October 2017

“The MiR Board focuses the voices of experts by experience... (It is) responsible for ensuring that coproduction with people who use services and their carers is a reality and central to future developments. We believe that all social care services should be devised and enhanced with service user participation, giving shared opportunities to solve problems and design services” (Terms of Reference 2017)

I'd like to take the opportunity to give an update on the development of the new **Making it Real Board**.

The date for the first new Making it Real Board meeting has been set for **Friday 27th October 2017**.

This follows the 'Collective Voices' workshop back in June and subsequent feedback on the launch, as well as the name, of the new Making it Real Board (we had to make a slight move from the planned launch on 13th October).

As stated in Andy Begley's proposal paper we want the new Board to “have a demonstrable influence on commissioning, innovation and service developments that reflect the aspirations and needs of local citizens. The new Board will need to be empowered and supported to make an important contribution to Adult Services in Shropshire”

One of the first points of discussion for the new Board will be to ask if we have the right people involved as well as the right balance to ensure insight and innovation, along with responsibility that will target improvement in the delivery of Adult Social Care (ASC). We will look to invite key individuals to take part as appropriate.

Feedback on the name of the new Board will also be discussed. From the feedback so far, it is clear that this discussion is about much more than a simple name. It has been about who the Board represents, its role and how it brings about change that has been jointly agreed (you might say **co-produced**) by those who use services alongside those who provide services.

Well, the establishment of the new Board will give the opportunity to discuss the above while ensuring a stronger, more creative voice for lived experience in the development of ASC. One of the first practical things that we would like to do is align the work of the various partnership Boards so that the voice of experts by experience can be heard clearly through a number of channels.

The existing Chair of the Making it Real Board, Jon Hancock, says “This new Board needs to be much more than a talking shop. I want to build a forum that will actively seek out issues in the ASC system and improve the day to day lives of everyday folk”.

Achievements to date have been on a small scale and include creating the exciting format and realistic content for the annual Local Account, the production of a series of regularly updated ASC Factsheets and input to the draft Adult Social Care Strategy (due before the end of 2017).

With the right balance of membership, the new Making it Real Board can be an even stronger positive force driving service transformation. Experts with lived experience can ensure that strategies and policies are grounded in reality; giving insightful feedback while being an integral part of innovative developments to services.

The new Board will be made up from the following people:

1. **Representative for the Central Advisory Group.** (Expert by experience and Board Chairperson) - Jon Hancock
2. **Representative for the South Advisory Group** (Expert by experience) - Katie Stone
3. **Representative for the North Advisory Group** (Expert by experience) - Mark Hitchin
4. **Expert by experience and representative for PACC** - Sarah Thomas
5. **Healthwatch** - Adelle Wilkinson
6. **Mental Health SW Team** - Fiona Williamson
7. **Taking Part (Advocacy service)** - Julie Mellor
8. **Director Adult Services and Housing** - Andy Begley
9. **Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Housing** - Lee Chapman
10. **Former P2P Board member** - Jenni Pitts
11. **SW Team Leader** - Sue Bunker
12. **Head of Adult Social Care** - Tanya Miles
13. **First Point of Contact manager** - Clare Mobberley
14. **Development Worker** - Stewart Smith

I plan to send update emails to all Making it Real contacts, as a way of sharing information and gathering feedback. You can share your thoughts at one of our advisory group meetings or simply forward ideas about the development of ASC. Forward your comments and thoughts directly to stewart.smith@shropshire.gov.uk

Best wishes

Stewart Smith (Development Worker)