**Agenda**

**South West ROVI Forum**

**10th May 2018 10am until 2.30pm**

**Venue:- Sensory Resource Centre, Jasmyn House, Midvale Road, Paignton. TQ4 5BD**

**10.00am Introductions and updates.**

* The guidance on peer review - Andrea
* Update from RWPN meeting at BCU – Andrea

**11.00am Jasmyn House Technology Team (Phil Lentern).**

* Demo of assistive technology equipment.

**12.00pm Lunch**.

**1.00pm Discussion Topics:**

* Emotional impact of visual loss and informal counselling.
* Do we teach walking in step?

**2.00pm Future dates and agenda items.**

* Any other business.

**2.30pm Meeting close.**

**Minutes of RWPN Meeting 10th May 2018**

**Attendees**:

**Devon**: Rebecca Gulley, Steve Giles, Nicky Searle, Fiona Kilbey, Claire Aldrich.

**Plymouth**: Linda Charlton, Kelly Hollingworth

**Somerset**: Andrea Doyle, Denis Davis

**Torbay**: Liz Beer, Olivia Richards

**WESC**: Jane Beveridge, Alison Heath

**ROVIC Service Devon:** Sue Pilkington

**Apologies:**

**Cornwall**: Rebecca Woods, Tracie Yates.

**Guide Dogs**: Clara Markwick, Steve Barker,

**Introductions and Updates.**

Sue Pilkington advised that there are eight ROVICS covering Children’s work in Devon (the service is managed by Sue).

It was agreed that all invites to future meetings, minutes, etc would be sent through Andrea as she holds all email addresses of interested parties. Please advise Andrea if there are any other people who may be interested in attending. It was clarified that you do not need to be an RWPN member to attend though this was promoted, it was also agreed Student ROVI’s and unqualified Sensory Workers could also attend meetings.

**Rehab Workers Professional Network (RWPN)**

Andrea Doyle and Denis Davis (Somerset) are the South West Representatives for the Rehab Workers Professional Network (RWPN) and they feedback issues/discussions from these area meetings to a National level. This helps to highlight local issues such as; transport problems, differences in service provision, differences in studies due to geographical area etc. Some areas discussed at the last meeting they attended included:

* GDPR – how membership details are held,
* Peer Review - This is a framework to ensure discussions are focused and beneficial. Enables clear views and good feedback. Andrea had the forms and these were used in the discussion groups held in the afternoon.

Andrea and Denis outlined the role of the RWPN and the benefits of being a member. Membership is an individual choice. Membership costs £84.00. The option of an employer paying was discussed and generally it was felt this would not be paid for by most local authorities or NHS trusts.

Andrea outlined some of the work, benefits and importance of RWPN membership including:-

* Annual Seminar – reduced rate for this and other specific training.
* Access to British Journal – Visual Impairment
* Access to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
* Mentorship scheme
* Apprentice model
* Campaigns e.g. shared space, electric cars
* Registration – RWPN is currently working to introduce a registration scheme similar to OT’s Physio’s and Counsellors (BACP). Registration would initially be voluntary but may become mandatory. It is felt a formal professional registration would give more clarity and recognition of the ROVI role and pay level.
* Facebook page / peer support.
* Advice and information on Vision Rehabilitation roles.

**Annual Seminar**

15th June 2018 at Birmingham City University, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TN

Tickets are on sale through Eventbrite and cost £40.00 members, £65.00 non-members.

Programme has not yet been finalised but will be released soon.

**Courses and Apprenticeship**

Peter Cooke from Birmingham City University (BCU) was unable to attend today’s meeting but is hoping to attend a future meeting. It was highlighted that there needs to be more up take on courses as they need minimum numbers for the courses to run. Information on BCU courses and Apprenticeships will be attached to the minutes.

**HAB VI UK.**

This is a group for professionals working with Children and Young adults with a visual impairment. Sue explained this is more educationally led / focused and they are trying to get more involvement and links with health and social care.

**Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO)**

There has been a change of ECLO in Torbay and RDE. Both Torbay and Devon seem to have experienced a drop in CVI’s and general referrals, this may be due to a transitional period.

Sue Pilkington (Children’s Services Manager), Alison Bagnall (Devon Sensory Team Manager) & Lorraine Thompson (Torbay Sensory Team Manager) are meeting with Giles Spear (ECLO Manager) on June 5th to discuss the service. Any feedback on current ECLO provision should be communicated to your manager and will be passed on at this meeting.

**Equipment and Technology update:**

Phil Lentern runs The Jasmyn House Technology Team based in Midvale Road, Paignton. This is a community based service run by volunteers to provide advice and training in many areas of assistive technology. The service is primarily for individuals from the Torbay and South Hams area, though Phil is flexible with this!!

Phil gave a talk and demonstration on various assistive tech options and we had the opportunity to try and use some of the app’s etc available. The hand-outs from the session will be attached to the minutes

**Discussion Topics:**

* Emotional impact of visual loss and informal counselling.
* Do we teach walking in step?

We split off in to three smaller groups and discussed the above topics. We used the RWPN Peer Review forms which helped in keeping the discussions on track and enabled clear feedback from each group. It was agreed this was very useful and gave an opportunity to share knowledge and discuss professional practice.

If you require more information on the feedback obtained from these discussions, a copy of the review forms can be requested from Andrea Doyle.

**Future meetings**

Provisional date – 3rd October 2018 at Guide Dogs Bristol– further details to be confirmed by Andrea Doyle.