

Scottish Mental Health Law Review

Minute of the Communication and Engagement Advisory Group

Location: Virtual Meeting via MS Teams – link to be sent separately

Date: 29th June 2021

Time: 9am – 10:30am

Present: Karen Martin, John Scott, Irene Oldfather, Vicki Piper, Rhona Willder

Apologies: Eleanor Brewster, Sam Phillips, Amanda McLaren

Secretariat: Sophie Ryder

1. Welcome

Karen welcomed everybody to the meeting and the minute of the previous meeting was agreed.

2. ALLIANCE Event

- The format and content for the event has now been agreed and the Review Secretariat will continue to work with the ALLIANCE to progress with this.
- John has agreed to do a promotional ‘ALLIANCE Live’ session in the lead up to the event.

3. Interim Report July 2021

Review and communication strategy – ideas for communicating this in an accessible way.

- The interim report will be published by mid-July.
- John explained to the group what would be included in the interim report and the timeline for the remainder of the Review. This will also be published in the report.
- John pointed out to the group that they will be required to help with communications later in the year when the Review goes out for further consultation.
- Karen thanked the group for their contributions
- The group will be sent the draft chapter of the report for information prior to publication.

4. What will happen in phase 3?

Overall plan for the Review and future work of the group

A plan of action was developed for the future work of the group.

- Future meetings will be dedicated to a particular topic area with the aim of making some proposals about how these areas might be improved. This could include a piece of consultative work.
- Some of this work also ties in with other areas of the Review and the Secretariat will ensure that a joined up approach is used in those areas.
- In relation to the above topic about improving communication with the DWP, Irene discussed the ongoing work by Social Security Scotland on intelligent kindness, in partnership with the ALLIANCE. Sessions are currently being delivered across Social Security Scotland to highlight the importance of person centred care with the aim of getting civil servants and other people working in the sector to understand what it means to be at the sharp end of things.
- The aim of this is to try and bring about a culture change and adopt a much more human approach.
- This is something that could potentially be adapted for DWP staff.

Action – Irene to send further information and case study to illustrate approach

5. Next meeting

- A Doodle poll will be sent out for the next meeting
- A decision will be made on which topic will be discussed and the Review will put together a paper for discussion.