

## Meeting minutes 20th November 2025, Worthing Town Hall



A copy of the minutes will be posted on the council's webpage.

Who came to the Board meeting is listed at the end of these minutes.

### Introduction

This meeting was co-chaired by Councillor Amanda Jupp (Cabinet Member for Adults Services) and Andrew Walker (Self-Advocate)

### The things we focussed on for this meeting were:

- LeDer (Learning from Lives and Deaths of People with a Learning Disability and Autistic People) Report
- DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) Support Services and Universal Credit

### LeDeR Presentation:

Wendy Crowhurst, LeDeR reviewer, spoke to board members about the LeDeR report, and the help the Learning Disability Health Facilitation Team can offer.

- This includes support for tests and scans
- Support in Hospitals and Health Centres





## Discussion

**Wendy** asked the board members if they had regular check-ups, and if they had good relationships with their Doctors?

### Board members gave the following answers:

- It's difficult to talk to people who don't know you, about your health.
- It's hard to call the doctors and get through to someone.
- It's difficult for non-verbal people to give consent over the phone.

### Wendy thanked the Board for their feedback and informed them that:

- The Learning Disability Health Facilitation Team can help make arrangements for non-verbal patients.
- You can ask for a note to be put on your medical records that says support is needed for appointments

### Here are some useful links that Wendy shared with the Board

[Support for people with a learning disability](#)

[LeDeR - Resource Bank - Accessible Format](#)

To contact the LDHFT team:-

Telephone: 01403 620438

Email: [SC-TR.LDHF-Horsham@nhs.net](mailto:SC-TR.LDHF-Horsham@nhs.net)



## DWP Support Services and Universal Credit Presentation

Alex Greene, from the Department of Work and Pensions spoke to board members about the move from older benefits models to Universal Credit

Alex also spoke to the Board about the help that Job Centres can people.



## Moving to Universal Credit

- If you are on one of the older benefits like Income Support, you will receive a letter telling you how to switch to Universal Credit system.
- You will have 3 months to go to a job centre to be supported in switching to universal credit.
- **PIP is not changing to Universal Credit. It will stay the same.**



## The help that Job Centres can offer you

- Job centre staff are there to help you get the benefits you should receive.
- They can support people with:
  - ★ Universal Credit
  - ★ Disability benefits
  - ★ PIP (Personal Independence Payment)
- Social workers, or support workers can also contact the DWP to help you get the support you need.



## Discussion

**Alex** asked the board members if they had any feedback or Questions about his presentation.

### **Board members gave the following answers:**

- Board members fed back that it can be difficult entering Job Centres doesn't feel welcoming/ accessible.
- Board members also asked if DWP staff ever come into the community to support when Job Centre is too intimidating?

### **Alex thanked the Board for their feedback and informed them that:**

- There are some teams from the Department of Work and Pensions that go into community hubs and Doctor's surgeries.
- These advice services can advise you about all types of benefits.
- There are also drop-in surgeries available in some food banks.
- There are also Phone and video appointments available.

Here is a link to the DWP Extra help information page:

<https://www.gov.uk/extra-help-benefits-pension>



## **AOB**

Board members and Organisations shared their plans for Festive activities



## **Date of next meeting:**

Date: To Be Confirmed.

Venue: To Be Confirmed.

## **Who came to the Board:**

Councillor Amanda Jupp - Member for Adult Services (Co-Chair)

Andrew Walker - Self Advocate, Speakabout (Co-Chair)

Daniel Arundel - Self Advocate, Bognor and Chichester Voice

Nicola Smith - Self Advocate, Bognor and Chichester Voice

Chris Button – Self Advocate, Worthing Speakout

Dimensions Outreach 3 Way Day Service:

James, Jodie, Susan, Michelle, Danielle

Strawford Day Opportunities Centre:

Karen, Kim, Gill, Andrew, Michael, Mark, Nikki, Darren, Jo

Jason Robinson – SCFT

Nancy Balestrini – SCFT

Sarah Prince-Beldam – SCFT

Wendy Crowhurst – NHS Sussex

Corinne Nikolova - clinical lead NHS

Jane Blackwell – Principal Librarian SEND

Alex Green – DWP

Cressie Brathwaite -DWP

Lucie Venables - Head of Commissioning WSCC

Diana Bernhardt – Commissioning Service Manager WSCC

Jo Baldwin - Commissioning Lead WSCC

Simona Giunta - Commissioning Officer WSCC

Rhiannon Jacomb - Administrator

James Ironside - Service Manager - Information and Involvement

Lydia Taylor - Information and Involvement team

Paige Maughn - Information and Involvement team