

**Forum Meeting**  
**05/10/09**

**Apologies**

Connie Finn  
Anne Kelly  
Colin Appleby

**Present**

Pat Song	Kate Mansfield
Sue Lynne	Maxine Sandler
David Worthington	Melvyn Sandler
Sinead Lawton	Ayesha
Faizal Ilhali	Zarina Bibi
Sue Samson	Robina Ahmed
P. Ainscough	Rita Fisher
Anne Sloan	Uzma
Lyudmila Romanova	Charan Jit Singh
Shail Chandihock	Gerda Rothberg
Christine Thompson	Wayne Cantrell
Safeena Ishan	Anne Billington
Karen Dunn	Rehana Yasmin
Mary Maynard	John Bottomley
Peter Bamford	Anthony Mintern
Azmat	Jerry Benjamin
Mubashar	Mary Howarth
Eileen Stockton	Bashara Moore
Margaret Wright	Nazir Ahmed
Gaynor Morgan	Helena Platt
Amy Stedbolt	

**Introduction**

Dave welcomed all present and introduced all to the new venue. He then welcomed Gaynor Morgan to Chair the meeting.

**Gaynor Morgan (Trustee)**

Gaynor introduced herself to the group and gave a summary of her caring role. She took the opportunity to thank Manchester carers Forum for all they had done for her and the support they had provided.

## **Minutes of the meeting 05/09/2009**

The minutes of the meeting were proposed by Sue Samson and seconded by Anne Billington.

### **Matters Arising**

Rick Mitchinson (Assistant Manager) informed all present that Carers expenses would be sent out on the day of the meeting and apologised that they were a little late being sent out.

### **Dave Williams (Project Manager)**

Dave provided a report for those present, explaining that due to his recent holiday and the number of speakers set to present at the meeting, his report would be short. The office is running as usual and all staff are busy and working hard. Dave then introduced the first of the three speakers;

### **Amy & Kate: The Stroke Association**

Kate works as a Family and Carers Support Co-ordinator for Central Manchester, providing support both in the hospital and then once the family have returned home. Amy works for the Communication and Support Service which covers Central and South Manchester. One third of those who suffer a Stroke experience language difficulties as a result. Trained volunteers are used to hold groups bi-weekly in both Didsbury & Openshaw, and these informal groups are there to support sufferers. Work is done at the groups to build confidence and language skills. A six weeks one-to-one support scheme is also currently being piloted, once again utilising volunteers and aiming to improve language skills and build confidence.

In terms of further information Stroke News is published quarterly and includes information on support and various issues relating to those suffering from a Stroke or caring for somebody who has experienced a Stroke. There is also a website and a helpline which people may use **(0845 3033 100/www.stroke.org.uk)**.

### **Oliver Mawdsley: Department of Work & Pensions**

Oliver spoke to the group about Carers Allowance. Currently the department in Preston receives four thousand calls a day and aims to provide support for the 6 million Carers in the UK.

A Carer may receive Carers Allowance if they are providing 35hours of care a week. This does not have to be round the clock caring and it may be providing support over the phone or for somebody who does not live with you. To be entitled to receive the payment you must be over 16 years of age and earn less

then £95 per week. You may be earning more the £95 before expenses and this will be taken into account. For example if you pay childcare costs out of your earning this will be considered. In addition to these criteria you must have been living in Great Britain for the last 26 weeks. Carers allowance is currently £53.10 a week and premiums may be received if you receive pensions credit, benefit etc. Help may also be provided towards housing benefits.

With regards to holidays a Carer may be paid for four weeks out of twenty six as holiday pay, or if in hospital two weeks out of twenty six. Only one Carers Allowance may be claimed regardless of how many people you provide care for. You may claim the allowance over the telephone or online and there is an enquiry line which can help with completing forms **0800 882200**.

### **Questions;**

Oliver was asked the difference between Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance. Disability Living is allowance is for those under the age of 65 whereas Attendance Allowance is for those over the age of 65.

### **Jo Ellins: Birmingham University**

Joe is working with Age Concern, Manchester Carers Forum and City Council to conduct a piece of research into the experiences of Older People with regards to transition. The team is looking for Carers over the age of 65 who care for somebody also over the age of 65 to provide their experiences of services. The research looks at Manchester Leicester, the Midlands and Gloucestershire.

Eight people from each area are looking to be recruited as co-researchers. This role involves sitting in and taking part in interviews conducted by Jo, shaping the questions asked, helping to make sense of the answers provided and possibly presenting finding to others.

Four days training would be provided over the year and £10 per hour paid to those involved, as well as travel expenses.

### **A.O.B.**

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.