

## Minutes

**16 July 2026  
10am-12pm  
Crosby Lakehouse**

In Attendance: Chair – Jen Corcoran (Sefton CVS)

Jo Bruce (Mencap Liverpool) [JB], Sam D'Auvin (Waiting Well) [SD'A], Kate Doyle (Sefton CVS) [KD], Neil Gibson (Sefton CVS) [NG], Nikki Hennessey (ABL Health) [NH], Jennifer Hurley (South Sefton PCN ACES Facilitator) [JH], Mindy Johnston (Change, Grow, Live) [MJ], Vicky Keeley (Sefton Carers Centre) [VK], Cath Lee (Imagine Independence) [CL], Melissa Lewis (Sefton CVS) [ML], Fi MacLauchlan (Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board) [FM], Pippa McCulloch (Imagine Independence) [PM], Lataetia McEvilly-Duncan (Swan Women's Centre – Befriending Service) [LM], Michelle Rossiter (Home from Home) [MR], Helen Stott (Rainbow Trust Children's Charity) [HS], Sam Turner (Netherton Feelgood Factory) [ST], Bob Wilkinson (Samaritans) [BW], Justine Williams (Age Concern Liverpool and Sefton) [JW]

Apologies: Debra Blakemore-Collins (Living Well Sefton), Kevin Byrne (Expect Limited), Elaine Cafferkey (Sefton Job Centres), Conal Devitt (Formby Befriending Service), Gina Harvey (Expect Ltd), Denise Hilton (DWP), John Mousley (Citizen's Advice), Andy Murphy (Unity Lives Ltd), Reece Richards (Alzheimer's Society), Helen Vernon (Sefton Advocacy), Gill Yates (Alzheimer's Society)

|                                      | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Action Points                                                            |
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| Welcome and Apologies                | JC welcomed attendees to the meeting and provided housekeeping information.<br>JC confirmed Jan Leonard is new Network and Engagement Lead and will be running future forums. There was a welcome in the most recent newsletter and that attendees were encouraged to connect.<br>Apologies were noted.        |                                                                          |
| Minutes of the last Meeting          | JC summarised the minutes of the previous meeting for the benefit of new attendees, highlighting key themes, presentations and discussions regarding representative recruitment and reporting.<br>At point of highlighting theme of funding, took opportunity to flag <a href="#">Sefton Community Lottery</a> | Send information about Sefton Community Lottery                          |
| Presentation 1: Mersey Care Strategy | Zoran Blackie from Mersey Care was unfortunately unable to attend so JC ran through the slides which gave overview of Mersey Care services and footprint and posed consultation questions.                                                                                                                     | Presentation to be shared with minutes<br><a href="#">Link to Slides</a> |
| Group Discussion & Feedback          | <b>Key messages from the Patient and Public Engagement Session were consistent across all discussions, focusing on prevention, accessibility, partnership working and person-</b>                                                                                                                              | Full summary to be sent with minutes.<br><a href="#">Link to Summary</a> |

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|                                                                           | <p><b>centred care.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants expressed a strong desire for <b>earlier intervention and preventative support</b>, with services responding before people reach crisis point.</li> <li>• There were concerns about <b>long waiting times, barriers to referrals, difficulties accessing GPs</b>, and variation in services across different boroughs.</li> <li>• Attendees supported exploring <b>alternative referral routes</b>, including greater involvement of trusted voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector organisations.</li> <li>• The group highlighted the importance of <b>stronger partnership working</b>, including improved engagement with local communities, schools, family hubs and voluntary sector partners, alongside consideration of frameworks such as <b>New Realities</b>.</li> <li>• Participants emphasised the need for <b>more joined-up, person-centred care</b>, particularly for people with complex, fluctuating or co-existing needs, who can currently find themselves moving between services rather than receiving coordinated support.</li> <li>• There was a particular focus on improving support and understanding for <b>neurodivergent people</b>, including enhanced training and awareness across primary care services.</li> <li>• Attendees also advocated for <b>community-based provision and outreach</b>, suggesting that support should be available in settings people already access and trust, such as community centres and local activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall, participants wanted Mersey Care's future strategy to prioritise prevention, improve access to services, strengthen local partnerships, reduce inequalities and deliver more integrated care closer to communities.</b></p> |                                                                             |
| <p>Presentation 2<br/>All Age Carers<br/>Strategy – Year<br/>1 Review</p> | <p>VK presented the <b>Strategy Review</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>background of the Carers Centre</b></li> <li>• The <b>timing and development of the strategy</b></li> <li>• The <b>strategy launch</b></li> <li>• The <b>six strategic priorities</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy covers a <b>three-year period</b>.</li> <li>• It aligns with the changes introduced through the <b>Health and Social Care Act 2022</b>.</li> <li>• The strategy aims to <b>recognise and support carers in all their forms and circumstances</b>.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>JC to share<br/>Powerpoint</p> <p><a href="#">Link to Powerpoint</a></p> |

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|                          | <p><b>Progress Against the Action Plan</b><br/>Progress against the Action Plan has been monitored through regular reporting and measured against the strategic priorities. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some positive work may be <b>going undocumented</b>, resulting in achievements not being fully reflected in reporting.</li> <li>Obtaining meaningful feedback can be <b>challenging</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Performance against targets was reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>41%</b> of targets were <b>fully achieved</b></li> <li><b>15%</b> of targets were <b>not achieved</b></li> <li>The remaining targets were <b>partially achieved</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Areas of Concern and Identified Gaps</b><br/>Several gaps and challenges were highlighted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Under-reporting</b> relating to <b>school-age carers</b></li> <li><b>Health checks</b> for carers are not being carried out consistently by GPs</li> <li><b>Transition gaps</b> remain within support pathways</li> <li>Limited support for <b>employees who are carers</b>, despite the recognised link between support and productivity</li> <li>While there are strong <b>safeguarding teams</b> in place, there are concerns about whether people are sufficiently <b>aware of the support available</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Recognition of Young Carers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an intention to hold a <b>Young Carers Recognition Event</b>, with <i>recognition</i> identified as the preferred terminology rather than <i>celebration</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b><br/>Key next steps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruiting a <b>Volunteer Chair</b></li> <li>Encouraging and challenging partner organisations to <b>actively participate</b></li> <li>Ensuring partners <b>assess, evidence, and demonstrate progress</b> against the strategy's priorities and objectives.</li> </ul> |  |
| Questions and Discussion | <p>Q – how would you <b>create a workplace policy</b> to support carers?<br/>A - the <a href="#">Carers Centre website</a> has a <a href="#">section for employee carers</a>.</p> <p>Q – <b>Do you need to register as a carer to benefit from legal protection?</b><br/>A – No, self-recognition is acceptable but Carers Centre can</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |

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|                                             | <p>support. Carers are also entitled to assessments and there is <a href="#">more information on the website</a>.</p> <p>Q – Does the <b>recipient of care need to be registered in the system?</b><br/>A – No, they are covered whether known or not.</p> <p>Q – What <b>events are there for young carers?</b><br/>A – Dynamics are different for different ages but can include therapy days, residentials and trips.</p> <p>Q – <b>How do you get into schools</b> to improve their reporting?<br/>A – Academies are a challenge but once accessed then training with real case studies is valuable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional note – there is <b>respite offered at Ince Blundell Hall</b> – Carers Centre can allocate vouchers which cover overnight stay and three meals, which can be redeemed in full or in part.</li> <li>• Raised <a href="#">Freshfield Pet Mobile Service</a> which seeks to support keeping pets with their owners where possible.</li> <li>• Discussion around neurodiversity support and long waiting lists – there is a <a href="#">resource pack for ADHD</a> that can be accessed without diagnosis</li> <li>• Carers Centre are taking tentative steps towards using AI to support with administration and comms (3 minute videos)</li> </ul> |  |
| Community Insights and Information Exchange | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo Bruce from Mencap (<a href="mailto:jo.bruce@mencapliverpool.org.uk">jo.bruce@mencapliverpool.org.uk</a>) has prepared a <a href="#">report from a recent Health Conference</a> to be distributed and also brought invitations for Mencap's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations taking place 10am-4pm on Wed 29 July 2026 @ Mencap Community Cottages, 6-8 Mariners Road, Crosby</li> <li>• Justine Williams introduced herself as the newly appointed CEO of Age Concern Liverpool and Sefton. She is getting out and about and making connections and can be contacted via <a href="mailto:justine.williams@ageconcernliverpoolandsefton.org.uk">justine.williams@ageconcernliverpoolandsefton.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Fi MacLauchlan introduced herself as the new Partnership and Engagement Officer for the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – she can be reached at <a href="mailto:Fi.MacLauchlan@sefton.gov.uk">Fi.MacLauchlan@sefton.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Cath Lee flagged the Social Inclusion services offered by Imagine Independence - <a href="mailto:clee@imagineindependence.org.uk">clee@imagineindependence.org.uk</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                             |  |

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|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helen Stott represents the Rainbow Trust who support families who have a child with a life limiting or terminal illness and they currently have referral capacity - <a href="mailto:Helen.Stott@rainbowtrust.org.uk">Helen.Stott@rainbowtrust.org.uk</a></li> <li>Mindy Johnston from CGL confirmed they have additional premises and that they will have an open day in September so look out for this. <a href="mailto:Mindy.Johnston@cgl.org.uk">Mindy.Johnston@cgl.org.uk</a></li> <li>Sam Turner is a health and wellbeing mentor at the Feel Good Factory in Netherton. They have a community garden with flower beds available for hire and good volunteer opportunities <a href="mailto:Sam.Turner@feelgoodfactory.org.uk">Sam.Turner@feelgoodfactory.org.uk</a></li> <li>There is a community event at Poets Park in Bootle on Monday 03 August from 12pm-3pm - The event is being organised by the <b>Poet Streets Partnership</b>, including One Vision Housing, Riverside, Prima Group, Plus Dane Housing, Crosby Housing Association, Sefton Council and Capacity.</li> </ul> |  |
| AOB              | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| Close of Meeting |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |

**Date and time of next meeting**

Autumn 2026

Venue TBC