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Reg No: 2125188

Reg. Charity Number: 801618

Cllr Pippa Connor

Chair Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel

22 October 2014

Dear Cllr Connor

Re: Advocacy Mental Health Contract Cancellation Mind in Haringey

Thank you for your support in this matter, we had a meeting with Charlotte Pomery and Peter White on the 20th of October and agreed the following actions:

That they would send us a word copy of the review report so that we could transfer the points under the headings so that they can address them individually.

We agreed to forward other documents to support our points of inaccuracy if they were unable to find the original documents that we sent. (They are claiming that we refused or did not supply adequate information. However we have email evidence of this being sent so this is an error on their part).

We showed them the letter which we have posted on our website and are giving to services user's and stakeholders letting them know about the wind down of the service and explaining our inability to signpost them elsewhere? (I believe you have had sight of this?)

It was agreed by Peter and Charlotte that they would send us a list of providers still offering advocacy so that we can amend the letter and signpost people looking for advocacy help?

However 2 days later this has still not been sent.

They were unable to explain to us why they have not kept our contract going until the new provider is in place to deliver Mental Health Advocacy in Haringey? However they could not answer this, they kept repeating that this contract had been extended twice since April 2014. Also there seemed to be a heavy/reliance emphasis by them that advocacy help/information would be accessible via Haringey Council Website whilst in the same breath admitting at the meeting that currently this site was not fit for purpose and needed a lot of work?

This leaves us to wonder whether there really is capacity and services to meet our mental health adult advocacy needs.

Our current advocacy contract has actually been rolled over year on year for the last 4 years since I have been in post, so this statement of extension is irrelevant and makes them seem as if they are doing us a favour? (It should be noted that we have delivered this service at a large deficit to

ourselves for many years because of the need expressed by our beneficiaries) It is us who have been doing them the favour and taking reductions on this contract.

We understand that there is another scrutiny meeting on the on the 6th November, can you let us know if we should attend as it is doubtful if the commissioners will have answered either your questions or our points of inaccuracy in the review report before this date?

We are asking that councillors ask for the contract to be extended until March 31st of next year until new provider is in place and we can do a proper seamless handover. Failing this we would like to ensure that a service of a similar standard and accessibility is provided by someone else so we can reassure and signpost service users?

Currently we offer 5 day service from St Ann's, The Tottenham Job centre, Wood Green Library and our centre in the west of the borough so we are possibly the most accessible advocacy service on offer in Haringey to vulnerable adults.

It is worth noting that many of our service users cannot read and write properly and do not have access to a computer or cannot access online advice without physical 121 mental health support to do so. We are really worried that they will suffer through digitalisation.

Please can you circulate this letter to Scrutiny Panel Members

Kind regards



Anita Hudson

Chief Executive Officer

C. Lynette Charles (senior operations Manager)

Diane Arthur (Advocacy Manager)

Dr Sarah White (Trustee)

Mind in Haringey

