**Thurrock Direct Payments Engagement Group (DPEG) 13th June 2019 @ 10am**

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**Topic: Community Contact & Peer Support**

**Attendees:
Ian Evans, Executive Director, Thurrock Coalition (Facilitator)
Ian Kennard, Direct Payments Project Manager, Thurrock Council**

**Patrick Long, Thurrock Diversity Network. Direct Payments User
Huseyin Hurbas, Thurrock Diversity Network. Direct Payments User
Adam McDonald, Direct Payments Officer, Thurrock Council**

**Apologies: Jill Bacon, John Campbell, Direct Payments User**

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| **Topic & Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Introductions**Ian E welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Introductions were given. **The DP Guide**The Group discussed the draft of the DP Guide and some minor corrections were made. Could include references to “here to help” “independence” and “Choice and control” to emphasise the positive aspects of using Direct Payments. Should also consider alternative formats, languages and EasyReadInclude information about joining/getting involved with DPEG**The DP Information video and script**Ian E read through the draft script (attached) for the DP information video. Feedback was as follows:* The content is good, but needs shortening/streamlining
* The Group agreed that the video should include an introduction from a Council Rep, alongside individuals
* We need to identify individuals who would be willing to speak to camera about their experiences of using DP and the positive effects that it has had on their lives.
* Could use a DPEG meeting to film the rushes/scripted segments
* Could source and use a BSL interpreter as part of the filming of the video
* Should be gender balanced and interview the Assistant Director at the start. Use on location areas and places in the community.
* Remove specific references to current provider.

**Meeting attendees and topics**Numbers of attendees appeared lower than usual this month. Patrick again raised concerns about how best to let people know about the meetings, and all the good work that’s been done so far as well as plans for the future.A discussion followed and the Group decided:That the DPEG should change the strategy of the group along with the future meeting topics to provide:An opportunity to provide input to the design of the DP Training for the Local Authority and ASC managers and frontline staffPeer Support topics can only be of maximum effect with greater participation and attendance. The Group agreed to rethink meeting topics and strategy, with the aim of increasing the number of people attending and being involved. The DPEG should write to all DP Users in Thurrock again, emphasising the work of the Group and inviting them to an “Open Forum” style meeting to discuss any issues. Meeting to be held in July 2019 | **Ian K to update the draft to reflect the changes.****Ian E and HH to meet to finalise the I.T. equipment required to edit and produce an information video.****Ian E to order the equipment and to keep the Group updated****Ian K to speak to the LACs and/or Comms Team about which equipment we can borrow****Ian K to invite Bill Clayton, Senior Training and Development Officer to the next meeting (11th July 2pm)****All - August and September meetings to focus upon an Open Forum for people to come along and raise any issues, experiences or concerns in an open forum with other DP Users, and DP Officers****Ian K to draft a mailshot letter to go out to all current DP Users inviting them to the Open Forum style meetings** |
| **Date of Next Meeting - 11th July at 2pm**  | **“Designing DP Training for the ASC Workforce – What to include”** |