



**Minutes of SABIN Steering Group Meeting
Monday 16 July 2012
Barlow Robbins, Quarry Street Office, Guildford
4.30pm**

Present: Helen Goatley, (Chair)
Sally De La Fontaine
Debbie Hollands
Oliver McGeachy

Apologies: Jane Heath
Anita Rose
Maggie Ledwidge
Carole Fowlie

1. The landscape for inpatient rehabilitation in the local area is fast changing. A new unit has opened up at Glenside, Farnborough. This is a brand new community neuro-rehabilitation service for adults with long term neurological conditions. Meanwhile there appear to be consultations about the future of the Godwin Unit, Bradley Centre and Milford Hospital. There have been some key staff changes in many local organisations. The White Paper published this week on social care will have an impact locally.
2. UKABIF have been active. There was a discussion about the feedback to be sent by SABIN about the set of guidelines being developed for regional groups. It was agreed that SABIN is open to all professionals working in ABI as well as carers and people with acquired brain injury. We are happy with our terms of reference as a constitution and this already appears on our website, so is transparent to all members of the forum. All members of SABIN are on an equal footing and no one member or organisation has more than one member on the Steering Committee, nor is there any disproportionate influence or ownership of SABIN by any one organisation. Our work is principally involved in developing wider networks, particularly amongst those who will influence commissioning of better services for people with ABI. We encourage members of SABIN to join UKABIF, to ensure wider collaborative work. To that extent, the member of the Steering Committee were happy to support the UKABIF guidelines. The only concern is UKABIF's

requirement that all groups should have elected officers to include a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. At present, SABIN holds no funds and there is no need for a Treasurer. The Steering Committee consists of volunteers who have put themselves forward to belong and this loose organisation of the network works well at present. It was felt that a more formal constitution and structure was not necessary and might actually be counter-productive. This would be fed back to UKABIF.

3. UKABIF have just launched their campaign “Life after Brain Injury” targeted at politicians. The brochure will now be circulated by our Chair to all members of SABIN to keep them informed and invite their support for the national campaign. SABIN is represented at the regional forums meetings of UKABIF, where best practice is shared. The regional forums (which are now spread over much of the country) vary widely in their membership, activities and vision. The Steering Committee of SABIN agreed to watch closely as good ideas emerged from other parts of the country so that SABIN might adopt the most relevant best practice in our own area.
4. 2012/13 Programme:-
 - There should soon be a date for an event in September when William Challis will speak to us about the National Mapping system he has set up. It appears to be very robust and useful and will be encouraged amongst members of SABIN. Exact date, time and venue to be confirmed.
 - A “Come and Share” Christmas social is likely to take place at Headway Surrey in Guildford. Date to be confirmed.
 - Two events are planned for 2013. Speakers are being contacted and dates worked out.
 - Social Networking – we now have an address on Twitter - @surreyabi and on LinkedIn – first name: Surrey, last name: ABIN. It will now be for members of the Steering Committee to start using these social media facilities and spreading the word about events and information about SABIN.
5. It was reported that there is a newly appointed consultant neurologist at Frimley Park Hospital who is apparently enthusiastic about consulting with service users. SABIN will attempt to make contact with him and perhaps invite him to come along and speak at an event.