

Terms of Reference

Disabilities Network

1. STATUS

An independent Network of service users, carers and voluntary groups owned by the members and facilitated by PAVS.

2. AIM

The network exists to represent member interests and to make an effective contribution to the Planning of Health and Social Care Services for Physically and Sensory Impaired People in Pembrokeshire, the development, delivery and the implementation of the Disability Strategy for Pembrokeshire.

3. OBJECTIVES:

- a) To enable effective networking and collaboration within the voluntary sector, to strengthen the individual groups' voice as part of the wider network.
- b) To represent the concerns and needs of service users, carers and voluntary groups.
- c) To identify and create awareness of existing and future service needs of people with physical and sensory impairments, their carers and voluntary groups.
- d) To encourage members of the group to share good practice.
- e) To work in partnership with other organisations and encourage joint planning and provision of services with representatives of statutory and private agencies.
- f) To increase public awareness of issues concerning physically and sensory impaired people and to raise the profile of disabled people's interests.
- g) To elect representatives to attend planning groups on behalf of physically and sensory impaired people and the Network.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership of the network is open to all service users, carers and any voluntary group which is non-statutory and non-profit making working in the field of people with physical and sensory impairments in Pembrokeshire. Members must support the aims and objectives of the network.
- b) The network may agree to invite individuals / groups to attend a meeting for specific items / issues.

5. PROCEDURES

- a) The network will elect a chair and vice chair annually
- b) The network will be serviced by PAVS
- c) Meetings will be held at least twice yearly
- d) The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually

6. DECISION MAKING

- a) The emphasis of the Disabilities Network will be on consensual decision making. However, there may be occasions when it is necessary to put matters to a vote. Where matters are put to a vote, questions shall be decided by a simple majority show of hands of those who are entitled to vote.
- b) Voting rights will only be conferred on members after their first meeting (ie. they will have a vote from the second time they attend). The network is empowered to review, and if appropriate, withdraw the voting rights of members failing to attend more than three meetings out of the last six.
- c) Each service user, carer and member organisation shall have one vote, but in the case of an equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a 2nd or casting vote.
- d) All full members of the network shall have the right to exercise a vote by proxy if their voting intentions on a specific proposal are rendered in writing to the Chair of the meeting.
