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| <b>TITLE OF MEETING</b> | <b>Life Stages Carers' Network</b>  |  |
| <b>Date</b>             | <b>10<sup>th</sup> January 2014</b>   |   |
| <b>Present</b>          | <b>Lisa Holdsworth - Service Development Officer (Chair); George Cree – Carer; Pat Miller – Carer; Roy Miller – Carer; Elaine Abbott – Carer; Debbie Hardy – Carer; Clair Hall – DAD Carers Support Service</b> |   |
| <b>Apologies</b>        | <b>Vicki Pattison - Team Manager 26+; Catherine Bowman– Carer; Mary Brookbanks - Carer</b>  |   |

| <b>Item No.</b> | <b>Item Heading</b>  | <b>Comments</b>   | <b>Actions</b> | <b>Lead</b> | <b>Timescale</b> |
|-----------------|--|---|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1.              | <p>Wills and Trusts – Natalie Palmer, Latimer Hinks Solicitors.</p> <p>Tel: (01325) 341500</p> | <p><u>Wills</u> - writing a will lets you state what you want to happen to your money and other assets after your death. If you don't have a will, the rules of intestacy apply. This means that people you want to inherit might not inherit, or people you don't want to inherit do. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if you live with a partner you are not married to, they won't get anything;</li> <li>if you have assets worth over £250,000, your husband/wife will not necessarily get it all;</li> <li>if you have step-children, they won't get anything.</li> </ul> <p>A will enables you to be legally clear about what you want to happen. It also lets you state your funeral wishes and give particular possessions to individuals eg jewellery, pieces of furniture. It can also prevent family disputes about these.</p> <p>Wills should be reviewed/updated every 2-3 years, as both your circumstances and the law may change.</p> <p><u>Trusts</u> - if there is no will and a disabled person inherits, it can cause problems if the disabled person lacks capacity to manage their money and a deputyship under the Court of Protection may be required. The Court charges for everything</p> |                |             |                  |

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|    |   | <p>they do. Money left directly to a disabled person could also impact on state benefits/payment of social care costs.</p> <p>Trusts can be set up both while you are alive and through your will to ensure that your disabled relative can benefit from the money left to them. Discretionary trusts don't affect an individual's benefits and interest is taxed within the Trust. You decide who the Trust's trustees will be</p> <p>If you have a savings account for your son/daughter in your name, the money in it may be used to pay your care fees if you go into long term care.</p> <p><u>Power of Attorney</u> – these can only be set up if the person for whom the power of attorney is to be given has capacity when the power of attorney is drawn up. The Mental Capacity Act assumes capacity, unless it is proved otherwise. Capacity relates to the specific activity.</p> <p><b>NB</b> If you have a joint bank account, the person with whom you hold it needs to retain capacity, otherwise a power of attorney will be required.</p> <p>NP provided information packs at the meeting and would be happy to attend further meetings if required.</p> |  |  |  |
| 2. | Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising | Deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Agenda items                                    | Deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.  |  |  |  |

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| 4. | Any other business     | <p><u>Flyer to identify new members for the group and/or Darlington Learning Disability Network</u> – group members suggested some changes. They also felt that the flyer should be available from GP surgeries.</p> <p><u>Office Move</u> – the Life Stages Service is moving to Central house, Gladstone Street, Darlington, DL3 6JX on 27<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>Telephone numbers will remain the same, including the reception number, which is (01325) 406125.</p> | LH to amend and arrange distribution | LH | ASAP |
| 5. | Dates of next meetings | <b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b> – 10.00 – 12.00, North Lodge Conference Room.   |                                      |    |      |