

Housing and Support Strategy Group for People with a Physical Disability, Sensory Disability, Acquired Brain Injury and Long Term Conditions

Tuesday 16th December 2008

Minutes

PRESENT

LW (Chair) – Torbay Care Trust	SB – Supporting People Development Officer.
TB – Westcountry Housing Association	JH – Affordable Housing Co-ordinator
KH – Sensory Team Manager	PM (Minutes) - Supporting People Administration Assistant
SG – Disability Information Service	PF – Community Care Worker - Brixham
SC – Project Officer Torbay Council	DL – Re-juvenation
LS – Service User Representative	CJ – Service User Representative
LH – Service Development Manager	TP – Torbay Care Trust
LSm	CC– Westcountry Housing Association
K – Westcountry Housing Association	JE – Riviera Support
CR	KJ

APOLOGIES

SS	RP
AH	

ITEM 1	Minutes & Matters Arising	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Advocacy – money had been put aside for this. LW explained that this money would support the development of a partnership board for this sector. This should support the work of this group. • Performance Monitoring – SB & LW have written to Client Records and are awaiting a reply. SC has been invited and is here for Agenda item 4. • Disabled Facility Grant funding – LW has emailed JB to see if the running out of funding should be identified as a risk she has not had a reply yet. • Minutes of the 4.11.08 were agreed. 	
ITEM 2	Commissioning Handy Person Service	
	<p>LH attended the meeting for this Agenda item. She explained that they were trying to expand this service to include disabled people who are under 65. She had put in two bids for funding to Communities and Local Government. The aim is to adapt current properties and reduce Residential Care need. Examples of what has been done are moving an elderly person's bed downstairs as</p>	

	<p>they could no longer manage the stairs and lowered rails in a wardrobe for a person who could not put clothes away. Lizz was asking the Group to contribute funding towards this scheme to match the amount put in by the Older People's Group. Decision on this is to be made in part B of this meeting.</p>	
ITEM 3	<p style="text-align: center;">Reviewing BME Engagement</p> <p>SC attended the meeting and brought with her DL who runs a group called "Rejuvenation" which is for people from black and ethnic minorities who have a disability. DL identified that the main problems are engaging with families and building trust. She said in her experience family groups were suspicious about the Police and Social Services, and she identified a solution as a black or minority ethnic person to go in and talk to them about their disabilities. The Group discussed how this could be done. Possible options are handing out leaflets outside Mosques/Churches or Schools. Also there are a lot of workers in the hospitals who are from ethnic backgrounds- could something be done through them? DL advised that a lot of people will not engage because they are discriminated against. Workers need to be trained to deal with this.</p>	
ITEM 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Action Plan – priorities for 2009</p> <p>LW advised that a Commissioning Plan had been written quickly last year. The Group now need to look at where we are with the Strategy and what needs to be done in the next year. The Strategy is available on the Website.</p> <p>The Handy Persons Service has been identified as an option which is to be discussed further in part B of this meeting.</p> <p>Sensory Conference was now being run bi-annually and now had funding for advocacy support for clients.</p> <p>It has been scheduled for Dragons Tail to be given increased funding in Year 3. They are already working towards short term objectives with new clients moving into the service. Westcountry Housing Association has submitted a proposal for increased funding and this was to be discussed in part B of this meeting.</p> <p>The SPLASH Service has identified the need for more units of support. The SPLASH Service will therefore be working to 46 units of floating support rather than the original 30 places.</p> <p>Support in residential care - The Care Trust agreed to fund SPLASH to provide support into residential care as part of planned move on from residential care once people are in their own homes they can continue to use SPLASH funded by Supporting People. These cases should be referred to LW there is a form to complete</p>	<p>AP1 LW/SB</p>

	<p>which LW will send to SB to send out with the minutes. SPLASH are currently supporting 4 acquired brain injury cases.</p> <p>Housing Link Workers posts - there are 3 posts advertised and they have received over 50 applications, the sift through took place on Friday and the Interviews will be after Christmas.</p> <p>LW also advised that they are setting up “Step Down Units” for people who cannot go home but do not need to go into Residential Care. They will be half way houses and this will be set up by NB from the Care Trust. LW will feedback on progress to this meeting.</p> <p>There are specialist acquired brain injury cases – intensive/ complex cases which SPLASH cannot take on. ”Headway” provides some enabling services. LW advised she is working on this through looking at enabling contracts.</p> <p>It was recognised that this Group has had substantial input into Devon Home Choice. SB is a member of the Health and Welfare Group. The last meeting was quite heated between different Authorities. The Group need to look out for developments on choice based lettings banding i.e. people put into Residential Care only because existing properties are not suitable and need adapting.</p> <p>Next year this Group will need to be monitoring what we have already achieved and what strategic developments are still required.</p>	<p>AP2 LW</p>
<p>ITEM 5</p>	<p>Review Terms of Reference – include membership and frequency of meetings</p> <p>The Group decided that 8 weekly meetings would be appropriate. It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 5 February 2009 am or pm. PM to find a venue. With 8 weekly meetings to be arranged after that preferably on Tuesdays avoiding 1st Tuesday of the month. It was agreed membership should include representatives from each zone where possible and that the Housing Link Worker should also be invited to these meetings.</p>	<p>AP3 PM</p>
<p>ITEM 6</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>It was mentioned that there had been a TV Programme “Under the Hammer” which mentioned a landlord in Torbay who had 150 properties and that they convert them in two weeks to full use if there is a market. Would they do adapted properties? SB advised that she would check the accredited landlord list and follow this up with Marie Jameson.</p> <p>KH advised that she would be nominating this Group for the Blue</p>	<p>AP4 SB</p>

	Shield Award.	
ITEM 7	Date of Next Meeting: 5 February 2009 at 2pm - 4pm– Cecil Room, Oldway Please note there will be a Part B meeting, open only to commissioners and stakeholder, excluding service providers. This will be from 4pm-5pm.	