

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

Thursday 5th February 2009

Minutes

PRESENT

LW (Chair) – Torbay Care Trust	SB – Supporting People Development Officer.
TB – Westcountry Housing Association	K – Westcountry Housing Association
PF – Community Care Worker - Brixham	Pat Marriott (Minutes) - Supporting People Administration Assistant
SG – Disability Information Service	

APOLOGIES

KH – Sensory Team Manager	JH – Affordable Housing Co-ordinator
LS – Service User Representative	CC – Westcountry Housing Association
CJ – Service User Representative	

ITEM 1	Welcome and Introductions	
	LW welcomed every to the meeting.	
ITEM 2	Minutes & Matters Arising	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP 1 – Support in residential care – main Agenda item • AP 2 – “Step Down Units” the next meeting has not taken place yet. LW will feedback after the next meeting. • AP 3 – Cleared • AP 4 – Accredited Landlords- SB has a list of these but suggests that people contact MJ in Housing Needs team direct if they need anything. • Link workers are all due to start on 16.02.09 .The Physical Disability Link Worker will be based at Paignton Hospital. The Mental Health Link Worker will be based between Waverley and Culverhay. The Learning Disability Link Worker will be based at Union House. The Link Worker should be able to help with advice on Physical Disabilities for any age category. SB asked if anyone was interested in taking part in the link workers induction on 17.02.09. K from SPLASH was interested SB to send an invite to Kate. • SP definitions - SB confirmed that the 2008 client records now asks about disabilities so CT- Information and Communication Officer will be able to break down the figures even further now. The Group were asked to read 	<p>AP 1 SB</p> <p>AP 2 SB to send the report out with these</p>

	<p>CT's report and identify areas to discuss at the next meeting or identify issues that the Group need to consider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Residential Care – LW reported that so far there has been no uptake on the use of Care Trust funding to gain access to SPLASH. It was recognised that it was a small service and a small client group. LW is not sure if there will be funding for this next year. She is hoping to get it but it may be a smaller amount. It is hoped that the Link Worker will help take this forward. • Housing Support Referral Hub – SB advised that the Hub is subject to an external review and asked that if the group had any constructive comments about the Hub could they email them to Fran at frances.mason@torbay.gov.uk .She explained that the Hub had encountered several problems mostly arising from business process re-engineering, i.e. paperless office; scanning documents; office move and changes to IT. • SG advised that there was a Deaf/blind Awareness Training day shortly. He will send details to PM so that they can be sent out with the minutes. • Update on decisions from Part B Meeting: – <p>The Group had agreed to put £15,000 into the Handyman scheme. They have placed restrictions on this namely that this group will be included in the working party and will be involved in the tender process and designing the specifications. The Group have a further £10,000 available if they find that the service is meeting the needs of our clients.</p> <p>The Group had agreed to an increase of 5 hours at Dragons Tail from 30.12.08.This is now a short term service.</p> <p>Bespoke Housing Group is currently looking at protocol and process. LW is working with JH on this. They are looking at what the process should be. The problem is that no-one is building any houses.</p>	<p>minutes</p> <p>AP 3 SG/PM</p> <p>AP 4 LW to liaise with JB (Care Trust) to ensure this happens</p>
<p>ITEM 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Devon Home Choice</p> <p>The main assessment policy and application form have been drafted and are out for consultation. The main things are the Health and Wellbeing assessment form and the Move On process. The Group need to know who the Supporting People person is who will be attending the Devon Home Choice Meetings in the future. Also LW is to be added to Rupert's email list so that this group is kept informed of developments after SB leaves.</p>	<p>AP 5 SB</p>

	<p>SB advised that Devon Home Choice could put in a bid to fund the development of an Accessible Housing Register as part of Devon Home Choice but to do this it was felt that they needed to get an agreement from Landlords to ensure that the information provided on properties to be advertised is accurate and up to date and includes information on adaptations, access etc. LW to put pressure on RW (Devon Home Choice Co-ordinator) to bid for this. SB to help with this and give LW RW's contact details.</p>	<p>AP 6 LW/SB</p>
<p>ITEM 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Transitions</p> <p>LW sits on the transitions group. She is interested in Young People moving from Childhood to Adulthood, in particular the process through for disabled young people. Looking at parents getting priority to move out of the property leaving the disabled young person to live in the already adapted property. There is a research project to access funding. The link worker will be a key factor in this as they are aware of what housing is available. SPLASH will be involved in identifying what young people will need in the future in respect of housing. This Group need to feed in the transitions work to the Children, Families and Young People Strategy Group.</p>	
<p>ITEM 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Update from Westcountry Housing Association</p> <p>Westcountry advised that the breakdown for the services is as follows :- Hearing – 14 Sight – 7 Physical Disability – 13 Long Term Conditions – 5 Acquired Brain Injury – 4 There are just a few hiccups with the Hub and they are working closely with the Royal National Institute of the Deaf.</p>	
<p>ITEM 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint commissioning for complex acquired brain injury Problem has been identified that there is a need for a Supporting People service for people with more complex acquired brain injury conditions. The problem is finance. The Care Trust has just put out a request for expressions of interest to provide an enabler service. It needs to be CSCI registered which is causing problems for potential providers. Some providers could do enabling service but cannot put in for it as they are not CSCI registered and may need to give physical care support. At the moment they are no further forward with joint commissioning. • What are the benefits of registering as disabled? This was a question to the group from LS. LW advised that 	

	<p>there were a few advantages i.e. evidence for bus passes; some cinemas give benefits and Homefinder gives priorities. LW has a list of benefits for registering as disabled which she will forward to SB to send out with the minutes. Registering as blind has more links than registering as disabled- it gives tax benefits. LW also advised that there was a deaf register and a learning disability register.</p>	<p>AP 7 LW/SB</p>
<p>ITEM 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dates for Future Meetings</p> <p>Tuesday 31st March 2009 – 14.00 to 17.00 – Cecil Room</p> <p>Tuesday 2nd June 2009 – 14.00 to 17.00 – Ballroom</p> <p>Tuesday 21st July 2009 – 14.00 to 17.00 – Cecil Room</p> <p>Tuesday 15th September 2009 – 14.00 to 17.00 – Cecil Room</p> <p>Tuesday 10th November 2009 – 14.00 to 17.00 – Cecil Room</p> <p>Tuesday 12th January 2009 – 14.00 to 17.00 – Cecil Room</p>	