

**MINUTES OF THE COUNTY CARERS' FORUM MEETING
HELD ON 20/03/07 AT THE RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN CENTRE, EXETER**

Present:-

Anne Brand, Dinny Cope, Suzanne Lovelace, Penny Cregan, J & P Edwards, Gillian Hewlett, Joan Goddard, Barry Minshall, Brigid McEleney-Smith, Maurice Clark, Lynsey Self, Carol Massey, Pauline Teatheron, Steve & Jane Hammond, Brenda Ridout, Sue Mears, Linda Stapleton, Alan Kerswell, Carolyn Elliott, June Wilkins, Carolyn Welch (Minutes)

Apologies:-

Rosemary Huxtable, Bill Smith, Mary Cameron, everyone from North Devon, Elaine James, Barbara Wilson, Jackie Milan, Joyce & Rod Harris, Barbara Minshall

Anne Brand kindly offered to chair the meeting.

<p>Suzanne Lovelace is interested in setting up a website for carers, particularly for those people who live in isolation. Anyone interested to speak to Suzanne after the meeting.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2007 were agreed. Anne would like her thanks to be forwarded onto Hilary for the minutes.</p>	<p>CAROLYN</p>
<p><u>Update on LD Structure & Service Developments</u></p> <p>Maurice Clark understands Devon County Council has financial difficulties, carers should make local MPs aware of our needs. Carolyn Elliott said there is a £3m gap next year, also a gap in Health funding as well. From 1 April 2007 £8m more will be put into the LD budget which means that we can support what we are doing at the moment. We need £11m as per the budget preparation. This, however, presents a problem for those people coming up through the system.</p> <p>Structure Change – pleased that LD specific is being retained.</p> <p><u>Take a Break Scheme</u> – LD have £60K which can be put into the scheme this year. We do not yet know how many hours of short breaks this will buy. Carers will need to decide whether this is the best use of this amount of Carers Grant. To be discussed further.</p>	

<p><u>The Liaison Nurse</u> post is proving to be very useful. Carolyn reported that there are Liaison Nurses in Torbay and Exeter. We would like to have a Liaison Nurse in North Devon. An agreement has recently been reached whereby LD, DPT & PCT fund the post and hopefully the funding has been secured for the next year.</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p><u>Action Plan</u> (presented by Carolyn Elliott)</p>	
<p>If anyone would like a copy let Carolyn or June know.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>At each future County Carers' Forum meeting Carolyn will update the Progress column.</p>	<p>CAROLYN</p>
<p>Carolyn to speak with Alan Kerswell separately on this plan.</p>	<p>CAROLYN</p>
<p><u>Fulfilling Lives & Other Day Time Support – County Mapping</u> This mapping exercise is almost complete and will be brought to the next Forum meeting.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
<p><u>PCP</u> – Carolyn would be very pleased if carers are involved in the appointing of independent facilitators.</p>	
<p><u>County Lead Manager for PCP</u> is currently Michael Lloyd. Looking for someone else to take on this role.</p>	
<p><u>Respite/Short Breaks</u> – when Carolyn receives this report, it will be brought to this Forum.</p>	<p>CAROLYN</p>
<p><u>Training 'Real Lives'</u> (generic carer awareness training for staff) – piloted in East Devon at the end of 2005. To be rolled out in North Devon.</p>	
<p><u>Information</u> – Carolyn to report back at a later stage the feedback from contact with Jenny Hooper (Mental Health).</p>	<p>CAROLYN</p>
<p>Carolyn will discuss at a later meeting - Why we need more money – compared to the rest of the country.</p>	<p>CAROLYN</p>
<p>Carers asked the difference between Registered & Monitored: <u>Registered</u> – Residential Homes are registered and they are inspected by CSCI (Government). <u>Monitored</u> – DCC monitors the work we do i.e. contracts working to the right standard.</p>	

<p>Working Group should be set up to revisit this in the light of the relaunch of the County Carers Forum.</p>	
<p>Linda Stapleton believes that Carolyn’s plan with the “Progress Column” is a very good start to change. Need to follow things through.</p> <p>Dinny considers monitoring and evaluation is important.</p> <p>Who would like to be part of the Facilitation Group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridget McEleney-Smith (E Devon LD Carers Support Worker) • Pauline Teatheron (Carer) • Sue Mears (Carer) • Dinny Cope (Carer) • Linda Stapleton (facilitator – Patient & Public Involvement Manager, DPT) • Anne Brand (Carer) • Carer required from South, June will ask Jackie Milan (LD Carers Worker for South locality) to bring a carer from South with her. <p>This group will report back at next meeting.</p> <p>Dinny requested as much correspondence as possible by email.</p> <p>Maurice enquired about using video conferencing.</p> <p><u>Quarterly meeting:</u> June/Hilary will organise the next meeting. Venue: Isca Centre, Exeter (or Civil Service Club) Date of next meeting: June 26th or 28th.</p> <p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Exeter Support Workers interviews</u> on 4 April, Anne Brand agreed to attend. Shortlisting being undertaken Mon 26/Tues 27 March. June in the process of locating volunteer Carers.</p> <p><u>Take a Break Scheme</u> – Carolyn asked “Do you want to support this scheme?” Short breaks are available to carers. Very patchy across the area. Carolyn to look into it, need to identify who providers are, costs, how many hours etc.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>JUNE</p> <p>JUNE</p> <p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>JUNE</p> <p>CAROLYN</p>

<p>Questionnaire on 'Take A Break' to be sent out to carers.</p> <p><u>LD Review</u> – came out of Cornwall Investigation, need a couple of volunteers, who will be paid, anyone interested let Carolyn know. The volunteers need not necessarily be from this group. The meeting will be held at Wonford House Hospital. Anne Brand to ask Mrs Ridout.</p> <p><u>EU Directive</u> - Jacqueline Edwards reported that she had seen an article in the press, with a start date of 1 April 2007. There is an opt out which is not an opt out! Direct Payment implication? No-one at the meeting was aware of this EU Directive.</p> <p>Anne Brand – Emergency Respite At Home – £334,000 has been received for the whole of Devon. Trying to look at it in a sensible way.</p> <p>Anne thanked everyone for attending this meeting.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>BRIDGET</p> <p>ANNE</p>
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The notes from this meeting will go onto the internet on 3 May 2007 for anyone to view. These notes may include the names of attendees and their comments. Please contact Hilary Allen on 01392 208639, or June Wilkins on 01392 208769, if you have any concerns about your name appearing in the notes or on the website.

www.carersindevon.org.uk

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POST IT NOTES

- Health Action Pack
- So many Forums – I no longer know which I need to attend to benefit the clients!
- Feeling: exhausted, not much time to do
- Too much on Carer/User problems – what is more often the problem (i.e. as in Cornwall) is Carer + User/Services
- Information prior to meeting with enough time to read e.g. Mid Devon Evaluation
- Is any of this going to benefit our young people – the service users?
- What Daycare Centres have been closed and where are the replacement facilities?
- Can we ask CSCI for an Inspection of LD services provided by DCC?
- More paperwork, more meetings, more managers, more planning, more carers workers, more development workers, but no mention of improvements for day activities for the users, many in residential care with no outings.
- How are we to address the lack of meaningful activity at the remaining Daycare Centres (or Fulfilling Lives Centres)?
- Working with carers – slide 1 (Assessment & Review) what happens when appropriate respite/day activities do not exist?
- OK to consider impact of Health needs but what will you do to help when above activities do not exist?

- Should CSCI inspect Supported Living services? I think so.
- Young adults in independent living, must have structure, not to wander the streets aimlessly.