

Learning Disability County Carers' Forum

Date: 31 March 2008

Present	Anne Brand (chair), Jacqueline Edwards, Peter Edwards, Jackie Milan, Dinny Cope, Jenny Williams, Ann Bell, Barbara Minshall, Barry Minshall, Bill Smith, John Taverner, Tracey Adams, Miriam Guard, Maurice Clark, Richard Cope, Barbara Paul, Carolyn Elliott, Linda Stapleton, Richard Anderson, Miriam Guard.	
Apologies	Brigid McEleney-Smith, Jeanette Kemlo, Bronwyn Nott, Rosemary Huxtable, Sarah Dixon, Mr & Mrs Harris, Mr Marler, Rita McCabe, Sandie Measday, Mr & Mrs Roberts, Esme Doran, Gordon Slade, Janet Wood, Una Wright, Joy Perry, Pauline Teatheron, Joan Goddard, Alan Kerswell, Sue Mears, Julia Blood, June Wilkins	
Visitors	Duncan Hepburn, Liz Wood	
Item	Narrative	Action
1. Minutes & actions	<p>Agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget – although there will always be the challenge of transition cases, Carolyn is fairly confident that the social care budget will be all right. However, the health budget is not so good. Although she put in a bid for extra funding, there will be no extra money. Therefore it will be a challenge to meet health needs, but Carolyn will continue to push for more funding. Task Group – use of the £4k to fund meetings was agreed. Staff Development Day – Richard, Dinny and Sue had attended. The aim of the day was to emphasise that a service must be built around the individual. Social Enterprise – the timescale of setting this up by April 2009 seems too short. Carolyn said that in order to get proper help to start it up, such as legal help, and to ensure it will be done properly; it may well not happen by then. Linda Stapleton said that there is a series of meetings arranged by DPT in which carers need to be involved. She has added this to the Task Group agenda. She asks that carers provide representation at all possible meetings. Hate Crime – Barbara Wilson (not present) had intended to bring copies of the PIP pack. Carolyn said that Barbara had recently chaired a very good conference involving the Police and others which had given a lot of good information for different groups of people. £10k LDDF grant had gone towards this work. The Police are committed to work with us and other agencies to tackle these issues and there is also commitment to the 'Safe card' scheme. 	<p><i>Carolyn to find out how the 'safe cards' are being distributed across the county</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events information – Hilary has not received any, so no information sheet produced. Barbara Paul said that she has successfully received a lot of useful information about carers' events. • Carolyn suggested that people write reports for KIN on any events they attend which will be of interest such as the Valuing People conferences. • Expert carers – Carolyn reported that she now has a small list of people willing to help but they wish their confidentiality to be maintained. The CCF could ask individuals to look at specific documents which are their special interest and report on them. Dinny would like a small group to look at job descriptions and contracts. It was agreed by the Forum that Dinny, Barbara Wilson, John Wadham and Tony Martin would look contracts/job descriptions etc on behalf of the LD County Carers' Forum and report back. 	<p><i>Any such groups should only consist of carers, although others could be consulted. Other carers should contact Dinny if they are interested in joining the group.</i></p>
<p>2. Update on Task Group</p>	<p>Linda Stapleton reminded members of the Involvement Framework which gives the route for people to receive information and to give their views. People who attend need to feedback to others and in return bring back the views of others. There is also a need to link with generic carers groups.</p> <p>Linda explained the purpose of the Task Group which meets after every CCF meeting. It is designed to look in more detail at issues raised and make decisions which can be ratified by the full CCF.</p> <p>Anne said that Parent Carers Voice have a leaflet to distribute setting out their aims and objectives. She suggested Learning Disabilities Adult Carers' Forum should produce something similar.</p>	<p><i>Task Group to consider</i></p>
<p>3. Update on short breaks</p>	<p>Duncan Hepburn gave a presentation showing how the Carers' Grant for 2007/08 had been used. Unfortunately it had not been possible to spend it all because of difficulty recruiting staff. It had been necessary to use existing staff in a more creative and flexible way. He would like to put in a bid for money from the Carers' Grant for 2008/9.</p> <p>So far, Carers' Grant has been limited to people who already receive a service. However, clarification is needed that it need not be limited to those eligible for a service. Use of the Carers' Grant will not take away from someone's existing service. This has been a cause for concern and has contributed to limited uptake in certain areas of</p>	<p><i>Carolyn is seeking clarification from Jennie Stephens. Richard Anderson is seeking</i></p>

	<p>Devon.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to talk to more people and find out what they want – not just SURF and CCF. • Duncan would like to bid for £161k for 2008/09. • Consider use of Carers' Link database to publicise the grant and give information on how to apply. 	<p><i>clarification from Tony Sweeney</i></p> <p><i>Task Group to discuss the use and monitoring of the Carers' Grant and report back to the Forum.</i></p>
<p>4. Update on Action Plan</p>	<p>Carolyn reported that this is not quite ready, so will be sent out with the minutes.</p>	
<p>5. Carers' Grant</p>	<p>Carolyn emphasised that the Carers' Grant is completely separate from the social care budget and read out parts of the DoH guidance on the use of the Carers' Grant.</p> <p>Carers' Grant for 2008/09 is £368k plus inflation.</p> <p>Carolyn said that it is quite urgent that we get on with spending it – recruitment of staff is a slow process which could delay things by 3 months.</p> <p>Proposal – that CCF commit to allocation of £161k per year for 3 years for short breaks to enable recruitment of staff to go ahead without the confines of short, temporary contracts.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Jacqueline Edwards, seconded by Bill Smith, agreed by CCF. Duncan Hepburn to give update to CCF every 6 months with clear figures of the numbers of people taking part as well as the number of activities.</i></p> <p>Other suggestions for use of Carers' Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers' Support Workers are on 1 year contracts – could these be made 3 year? • Parity of salaries for CSWs – currently these differ. Could they be equalled out? • Carers' Workers to be allocated £5k per area (ie £10k per Locality) to assist in running their support groups. • Can some clubs be supported? CSWs to collect lists of clubs for their areas. <p>Task Group to consider the detail of the above suggestions.</p>	<p><i>CSWs to collect information</i></p> <p><i>For Task Group</i></p>

	Anne suggested that a small subgroup of interested carers should monitor the Carers' Grant spend.	
6. RAS	<p>Liz Wood gave a presentation explaining RAS (Resource Allocation System) which was brought in as a means of achieving a fair system of allocating social care money for services throughout the County. A simple form had been devised so that as far as possible this could be a self- assessment.</p> <p>The RAS assessment produces a number which is then used with a calculating tool, which Carolyn explained, to come up with the maximum budget allocation. However, if there are additional needs, such as health needs, then there is a moderating tool which can be used. Carers asked for transparency about the value put on each banding of 'points' and how the extra points available are used. Carolyn said this information is not yet available, but she will bring it to the Forum when it is.</p> <p>The money can then be accessed in different ways, eg through a direct payment.</p> <p>Carolyn reported that the system for direct payments will change. It is being tendered and will become independent of DCC. This will provide opportunities for different methods of payment, for instance a card system is being looked at. More information will be coming out on what the money can be spent on – a directory of providers is being produced.</p> <p>Health funding (CHC) is different and not so flexible yet.</p>	<p><i>Presentation to be circulated with minutes</i></p> <p><i>Carolyn</i></p> <p><i>Anne will pass info from another County to Carolyn</i></p>
7. AOB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a Government review of eligibility criteria nationwide as a result of research by CSCI which has highlighted discrepancies of the way it is applied. 2. Linda Stapleton asked for comments on the Next Steps leaflet for DPT. She will send information to CSWs. 3. PCP – there is a specification but just in N Devon at present. 4. Anne said that Brigid will be leaving soon, and suggested that it would be good to arrange a lunch time meeting with her before she leaves. 5. Parent Carer Voice – Anne showed a leaflet. Would like to develop one for CCF. 6. Personal care in supported living – people are concerned as to how enabling 	<p><i>For next CCF agenda –</i></p>

	<p>contracts are monitored for quality, particularly concerning health needs. Carolyn said there is CSCI guidance.</p> <p>7. Hillcrest Gardening Service – Anne reported that this is being set up as a social enterprise and there is a launch event on 11 April.</p> <p>8. Express and Echo has been running a series of stories about carers. As a result, they now employ a person with a learning disability – thanks to Miriam Guard.</p>	<p><i>quality, enabling, standards etc. Carolyn to suggest who to invite.</i></p> <p><i>Let Anne know if you would like to attend</i></p>
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Date of next meeting

**Friday 23 May 2008
9.30 - 1**

Isca Centre, Summer Lane, Whipton, Exeter

The notes from this meeting will go onto the internet on 6 May 2008. These notes may include the names of attendees and their comments. Please contact Hilary Allen on 01392 208639 if you have any concerns about your name appearing in the notes or on the website. www.carersindevon.org.uk www.learningdisabilitydevon.org.uk