

COUNTY CARERS STEERING GROUP

NOTES OF MEETING OF TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2006

WESTBANK, EXMINSTER

Present Sonia Barton
AM
JE
AS
AB
Lynsey Self
Debbie Avery
Phil Dyson
Geoff King

Apologies June Wilkins
Giles Gardner
Linda Stapelton
Wendy Protheroe
DD
Sherrie Hitchen
RC

1. Minutes of Meeting of 24th January 2006

- 1.1. Nina Parnell is now confirmed as Care Direct link to carer issues.
- 1.2. JB should replace JE point 4.
- 1.3. Correction to minutes – AM not at meeting re comment re payment to carers (!).
- 1.4. Letter from Steering Group to David Johnstone and Anne Whitely still to do.
Action: Sonia Barton.
- 1.5. New Directorate “Adult & Community Services” and “Children and Young People’s Services”
- 1.6. Issue re Honeylands to be raised at Carers Week Mayoral Reception.
- 1.7. Minutes circulation to include David Johnstone, Anne Whitely and Cllr Sally Morgan.
- 1.8. Proposal for payment to Chairs/Vice Chairs/Co-chairs should read:
“£1,000 should be identified within each Locality to fund annual honorarium in respect of expenses to Chairs/Vice chairs/Co-chairs and agreed within the Locality”
- 1.9. Clarification of expenses/benefits issues to be prepared.
Action: Phil
- 1.10. Confirmed that ex-carers can attend Carers Forums as long as they wish, but ex-carers may be chairs for up to two years. Need to encourage current carers to become involved. For further discussions/clarification at next steering group
Action: Geoff
- 1.11. DEFRA funded Rural Carers Project going ahead. Interviews for Project Manager on Thursday 25th May 2006. AS, Chair of Teignbridge Carers Forum and CB, Chair of UNITE Trustees, Mid Devon on Steering Group and Interview Panel. NB Jo Pickering appointed and commencing on June 20th

2. Issues from Localities

2.1. Exeter

- 2.1.1. Spending re Carers Grant not always transparent enough. Breakdown of Carers Grant spend with Localities to be produced for next Steering Group.

Action: Geoff

Need to acknowledge that Carers Grant is only a small element of overall spend on support to carers – need to develop clear model for breakdown of all spend on carer services. .

East Devon Adult Services have a “template” for breakdown of spend. To be distributed to members of the Steering Group to inform requests for financial information.

Action: Sonia/Geoff/Debbie to liaise with David Johnstone and Anne Whitely

- 2.1.2. Need to enable Management Groups to feel comfortable about carer involvement in decision making spending priorities and helping to ensure value for money.
- 2.1.3. Top issues in Exeter:
 - i) respite
 - ii) identifying carers.

2.2. Teignbridge

- 2.2.1. Presentation at last Forum from New Care Devon – very informative. Concerns that change to New Care had resulted in poorer service re time keeping – need to maintain quality monitoring. Keysafes available through Devon Care and Repair to improve security.
- 2.2.2. Expressed concerns to CSCI re raising quality issues directly with homes – CSCI stated they “do not provide service to Carers”. Potential role for joint approach with PALs Officer in NHS?
- 2.2.3. Modernisation of local DCC residential homes – need to promote consultation in Locality.
- 2.2.4. Last Management Group not satisfactory – variation in attendance. Angela ensuring good representation from different carer groups – managers mainly set agenda.
- 2.2.5. Difficulty in receiving breakdown of Carers Grant spends. Needs to be more communication between Chairs/Managers/admin supports. Would help if tenure of Chair was changed to up to three years.

Action: Agreed to extend tenure of Chairs to up to three years.

2.3. East Devon

- 2.3.1. Currently low number of carers attending Forums – needing to be addressed.
- 2.3.2. Concerns re changes to Learning Disability Service in East Devon – similar issues across the County. To write to Learning Disability services to raise concerns and chase up Learning Disability responses to questions from County Carers Forum

Action: Sonia.

2.4. Mid Devon

- 2.4.1. Working well with Managers who turn up – Adults and Learning Disability but not from Mental Health and Children & Young Peoples Services.
- 2.4.2. Emergency Response Cards in development.
- 2.4.3. Low attendance by Carers in the Forum – general feeling now working well. Looking for new ways of structuring/format.

2.5. South Hams/West Devon

No feedback

2.6. North Devon

No feedback

3. Admin arrangements – Localities

3.1. Angela shared her draft letterhead business card compliment slips. Agreed to produce set of draft documents with Carers Link contact details for approval.

3.2. Angela asked if name badges could be provided – Agreed

Action: Geoff

3.3. Angela raised issue of Data Protection – SDCC not happy to put minutes on website. Phil re-confirmed that minutes of Forum and Management Groups need to be passed to Helen Brookes for inclusion on the website.

Action: Chairs/Carers Links.

Angela raised issue of the need for system for identifying carers who might be interested in representing carers at meetings etc – primary role is via Carers Link. Need to discuss practicalities at Carers in Devon Development

Action: Geoff

4. Feedback from County Forum

- Positive response to idea of pre-submitted questions.
- General view that questions should be “filtered” by Locality Carers Forums.
- Don’t need to have prepared feedback from chairs.

5. Next County Carers Forum.

- Agreed to have a “themed” County Carers Forum for July – with Forum in November being question and answer structure. **New date – July 13th.**

Content

- Learning and Development Project
- Parent/Carer Workers
- Mapping exercise
- Workshop in afternoon – re working of Carers Involvement Framework to fit in with review. How do we get carers involved?

Starting – 09.30 Tea/Coffee

10.00 Start

Presentations

Workshops facilitated by L&D?

3.00 Finish

- Other options:
Displays and carers poems
Speakers re:
PALS/ PPI?
Care Direct?
Met Office/COPD?
Expert Carer Programme ‘Looking after me’ – Jenny Bowers?
Feedback from Carers Week?
Rural Carers Project

Final programme to be agreed as soon as possible.

Action: Geoff/Sonia

6. Respite

Concern re emergency respite availability and no long term commitment for booked availability. Need for commissioning strategy for residential short term breaks with use of vouchers. To write to David Johnstone and Anne Whitely seeking information on availability and development of respite commissioning strategy.

Action: Sonia

7. Flexible Breaks Grant

- Agreed in principle as 'a good thing'.
- Agreed that Unite to act as banker – need to know how quickly payment can be made.
- Agreed no requirement for appeals – “sensitive” letter should suffice.
- Agreed no limit – could be used as match funding.
- Agreed that each Carers Management Group to determine local arrangements for “phasing” Grant payments throughout the year

8. Any other Business

- Meeting with David Johnstone/Cllr Sally Morgan on Monday 15th May was successful – formal feedback will be distributed. (Copy of action notes from that meeting attached to these notes)

Action: Geoff

- Angela requested update on Carers Involvement Framework contact details.

Action: Geoff

- Carers Link Workers wanted to raise concerns re Carers Link Contract – to be fed through Carers Link provider organisations.

Action: Carers Link Workers

- Further “Real Lives” training being put on in East Devon.
- Phil informed Steering Group of DCC Guidelines on meetings etc. To be distributed to Steering Group members.

Action: Geoff

- To check if other meetings on following dates:

Future Steering Group Meetings:

- Thursday 28th September 10.30 – 2.30, Westbank
- Tuesday 23rd January 2007, 10.30 – 2.30, Westbank

Future County Carers Forum:

- * Wednesday 22nd November, 09.30 – 3.00, Tiverton Hotel
- Wednesday 28th March 2007, 10.00 – 3.00

Action: Geoff

** NB Subsequent to this meeting, it has been discovered that a County Parent Carer Forum has been previously booked for November 22nd 2006. Members of the Steering Group are being asked if this Forum can be changed to November 23rd 2006. GK*