

CARERS IN DEVON DEVELOPMENT GROUP ACTION NOTES OF MEETING OF 18th September 2006

Present

Rosemary Whitehurst, Trish Whitfield, Nicky Ruane, June Wilkins, Sarah Lindley, Carol Stoye, Denise MacDonald, Geoff King, Rowena Lane, Sue Hurley, Lynsey Self, Lesley Willmott (notes)

Apologies

Sue White, Phil Dyson

Benefits checks

The meeting began with a discussion of benefits checks with Angela O'Brien from Devon Welfare Rights Unit.

Minutes of meeting of 17th July 2006

- Geoff King is to meet with PCT leads before Xmas.
- Contact Paul de Garis directly for queries on database
- Transition protocols still in development.
- Transition protocols for Young Carers are being considered. Sue Scales is to be tasked with this when she takes over YC lead in October.
- Benefits checks – Phil Dyson to check out concerns in East Devon
- District Councils Carers Leads have been identified. Meeting arranged for 2nd October 2006.
Action: Geoff King to send round list of contact details.
- Learning Disability Support Worker – possibility that Exeter and East will be combined in one post. Denise McDonald reported that she will not be continuing with this work after March.
Action: June Wilkins will follow this up with Michael Lloyd and Des Hutchins.
- Ex Carers – progress to be discussed next meeting

Carers Link

The Development Manager has been appointed. Emma Tay will start on 2nd October. Her remit will be to focus on Take a Break for the initial 6 months.

Take a Break

Will be phased in probably East Devon going first as they do not have a scheme at all. Emma will oversee implementation. The mechanics will only pan out once the scheme starts to happen. Phil Dyson is currently designing spreadsheets etc for Emma to use.

Mental Health – not sure as yet whether money will be available for carers or older people with mental health problems. There is no provision so far for under 65s.

Equalities

Geoff proposed setting up a group to look at equalities issues for carers looking at the inclusion of all hard to reach groups.

Action – Geoff to liaise with Jo Hooper DCC diversity lead with a view to the group focussing on practical things which can be done.

- Geoff to find out who diversity leads are for District Councils.

Flexible Breaks Grant

Sarah Lindley reported on a Young Carer who had applied for a break and thought they had been invited for an interview. It appears that there was a misunderstanding about an invite they had received to the Carers Forum.

Lynsey suggested that it might be better if there were more uniformity across the county next year around the administering of the grant such as who is on the panel, any ceiling on amount of grant given, deadline dates, appeals.

Geoff reported anxieties from within the statutory sector about the administration which is why this time there have been differences in different areas. These should be resolved for next time. It was agreed that it takes up a lot of time in administering the grant and that this should be reviewed in the New Year.

Carol Stoye reported that the administration of the money by Unite is going well.

Action – If anyone has a carer who has received a flexible break and would like to talk about it in Devon Link magazine please contact Lesley Willmott.

- scheme to be reviewed in the New Year.

Young Carers Transition Protocol

Concerns re young carers transition to adult carer's world.

Need to consider young persons issues re Carers Link Membership.

Action: to agree agenda item for next meeting.

Dates of future meetings

Mondays 20th November 2006, 15th January 2007, 19th March 2007 1pm – 4pm at Westbank.