

SOUTH DEVON CARERS CONSORTIUM
South Hams & West Devon Locality Carers Forum
Summary of meeting – Tuesday 10:10:06

Attendance

9 Carers, JB Carer Chair, SueWhite, Carers in Devon Development Worker, Sue Hurley SDCC Carers Link Worker SHWD, Jackie Milan Learning Disability Carers Worker, Colin Crowther Information Officer The Stroke Association, Clare Woodend Totnes Caring, Sarah Roe Newton & Noss Carers Support, Michael Wright Community Care Worker, Jenny Rayner Temporary Administrator SDCC, Sue Scrivener Strategic Planning, Devon PCT, Dartington, Jo Pickering Rural Carers Project Worker, Clare Webber Community Care Worker, Jim McCabe Kingsbridge R B L Welfare Secretary/Case Worker,

Apologies:

2 Carers, Justin Haden Co-Ordinator SDCC, Jenny Store Parent Carers Voice
Dianne Walton Dartmouth Caring, Phil Dyson Speaker on Take a Break (illness)

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Presentation by Sue Scrivener South Hams Area Local Care Centre
(Please see the handout regarding more details on this plan)

There is a new town being built in the Sherford Valley South Hams and West Devon Primary Care Trust have been given the task of developing the care facility there, which will also service some of Plympton, Plymstock and Ivybridge. This requires liaison with Plymouth Primary Care Trust and Plymouth Hospital Trust. The idea is that more services will be taken out of big hospitals into the community. There will be 'Outpatient and Day Case facilities, as well as a docking station for mobile scanners. Further plans include a minor injuries unit and a space for dental services alongside intermediate Inpatient Beds similar to community hospitals. The Patient and Public Involvement Committee are open to views, although they have only as yet managed to meet in the Ivybridge area. This is the next phase.

Outcomes that are hoped for are:-

Reducing inequalities, long term health facilities, expert patients programme, community based staff, waiting lists managed more efficiently and mental health and learning disability services, alongside groups and training.

The services will be tendered for and once procured will be assessed and reviewed. As 'money now follows the patient' this should give more choice. There is a building that's use is going to initially flexible in order to allow for expansion. Parking needs for patients will be partly serviced by a large Park and Ride facility at Deep Lane Junction.

Carers were very vocal on will there be Beds for respite as already existing services are overstretched and have to be booked at least 28 days in advance.

The wider site will have a Children's Services Centre, Extra Sheltered Care Housing. Again Tenders for cleaning, catering and transport will be out for tender.

Again Carers' wished to send the message that they perceived that these tendering methods had largely failed to provide quality services and could the PCT learn from the past. Carers also wondered what proportion of houses would be made available to local people due to the gap between wages and house prices.

For more information please visit the [South Hams District Council Web site](#) this hosts the Area Action Plan and will give information on how to get involved in the consultation and make your views known.

Carers were also informed that they are welcome to be invited to the Design Phase meetings. (Please see handout for further summary on matters)

Carers Rights Day Friday 8th December 06:

There are two events for South Hams and West Devon: In the morning at Ivybridge Town Hall there is Gary Streeter MP and a representative from the Pensions Services.

In the afternoon at The Pavilions Leisure Centre in Totnes there is Anthony Steen MP and again a representative from the Pensions Service. Any questions to Sue Hurley please by the 27th October in order that the answers can be researched.

There was a suggestion that it may be worth wording questions about Learning Disability and Respite services in light of how Devon fared in the reconfiguration.

Members of the Forum were reminded that the next County Carers Forum is on Thursday 23rd November at Buckfast Abbey 10 spaces are allocated to Carers of this Forum if you are interested in attending please contact South Devon Carers Consortium.

Again it was suggested that there questions needed and the above issues could again be raised, alongside the monitoring of grants and Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Update on 'Take a Break' Scheme: Phil Dyson who was due to give the presentation unfortunately is on sick leave. Sue White kindly offered to give the information as per the handout.

Take a Break Scheme

Adult and Community Services have agreed the following countywide breaks service following previous concerns about the lack of consistency across the county regarding the services available, the allocated hours and charging. Initially it will be available for carers of adults with a physical disability and older people. The principals agreed include;

- To implement one countywide specification called 'Take a Break.'
- To have an open access service (no social care assessment.)
(Carers/users can request the service through Care Management but FACS and Fairer Charging will then be applied)
- To give carers breaks of up to 3 hours of per week, which can be accumulated up to 12 hours blocks
- To charge £2.50 per hour as a standard rate (no financial assessment).

- To have it as a voucher scheme – a voucher is worth 1 Hour of breaks.
- To offers day time or evening ‘sitting’ within the home of the carer or ‘escorting’ the service user out of their home to give the carer a break.
(Night sitting and residential respite care will continue to be provided through Care Management).
- To ensure where required that personal care tasks can be undertaken as part of the break (but only by an approved domiciliary care agency).

The following service provision arrangements have been agreed.

- DCC will contract with one independent sector ‘broker’ for the County.
- The contract is let to a consortium led by Westbank League of Friends.
- Through the contract the broker will receive money from each locality to arrange and to purchase ‘breaks’ from local provider organisations.
- DCC cannot contract directly with any of the providers.
- As a result of the TAB requirements some current breaks block contracts have to be reviewed.
- The broker organisation will need to undertake an assessment of the carer/cared for needs to ensure an appropriate match can be made with the provider(s). The broker can arrange the break or give details of the local providers for the carer to organise their own break.
- The carer will be able to buy additional hours at the full unit cost or following a care management assessment
- The scheme will be implemented between 1/9/06 - 31/3/07, working with current providers and schemes in each locality, where these exist.

Phi Dyson –September 2006

Carers in the South Hams and West Devon area currently receive 4 hours care free they will now receive 3 hours at a cost of £7.50. They would like this passed on Concerns were also raised that services would be using volunteers and that this did not inspire confidence from Carers

Devon Rural Carers Project – Jo Pickering

Jo Pickering has currently been employed in a two year part time post to identify, improve and implement 8 initiatives to improve services for Rural Carers. Currently Jo is undertaking a mapping and consultation phase. Questionnaires have been sent to different agencies to ensure non duplication. Jo also plans to plot on a map where the 73,000 identified Carers in Devon are mainly situation in order that any initiatives target them.

Carers were then divided into two small focus groups each group focussing on the following two questions:-

How can we involve more carers in existing frameworks of support?

- Use Parish Councils, churches, church magazines and newsletters
- Women's Institutes
- Primary Schools and newsletters
- Vets and Vet surgeries and A1 person
- Community bus/transport
- Post office/ postmen/women
- Local radio

What additional or improved support and/or services can we provide to carers in rural areas?

- Additional therapists – mental health, counselling, advice
- Advocates
- Transport- specific
- Co-ordinator of support in local area (somebody who is known locally)
- Join up with farmers groups
- Totnes caring acting as signposting service – get information into as many places as possible
- Doctors, nurses etc need to be targeted and educated.

Matters Arising: Patient Transport, a Carer raised the issue that with patient transport needing to be booked there had been an incident where transport was needed at 0200 am on a Sunday Morning for an elderly relative. There was also raised the concern about discharge from Derriford Hospital and the Carers being the last to know.

Advice given is that incidents should be directed to Dilys Slater PALS officer as soon as possible in order that actions can be redressed.

DATES OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 28th February at Kingsbridge Methodist Church 10.30 -12.30 followed by a buffet lunch