

Devon Small Scale Provider Forum Meeting

Date:- 01.09.2010

Time:- 10.00

Venue:- Self unlimited, South Molton

Those attending:-

Wendy Masonchair

Linda Williams

Penny Bloomfield

Kay Nicholls

Lisa Dunn

Apologies:-

Jan Navran

Linda Dodd

Jason Collins

The minutes were read and agreed.

Those attending were very concerned about contracts. As Supporting People funding will cease as such and come under the Social Services umbrella, will there be an extension to SP contracts until the Individual budgets have been assessed and are in place?

There is confusion regarding these contract expiry dates. Also members wish to know the timeframe for all the Service User reviews for Personal Budgets. Surely notice of the new contract dates will need to be given to providers.

In general it was felt that 'lumping' contracts for individuals together under one funding source was a good thing as the Service Users' hours would be more flexible. Everyone agreed that Enabling hours are far less prescriptive than SP hours.

Members agreed that, when undergoing the reviews for the new budgets, Service Users need a knowledgeable advocate present. This would and should usually be the provider as they are best placed to understand the problems, needs and disabilities of the individual. This is especially true because fewer Service Users have a dedicated Care Manager now.

Considerable concern was expressed that, during the changes, good providers may be lost. The level of paperwork, the cutbacks and the amount of unpaid work can stretch margins too far.

It appears that many new Domiciliary Care Agencies have sprung up in Devon and are moving into enabling work. They are unproven and operate on a shoestring

with a consequent huge turnover of staff. Service Users cannot form a confident relationship with a carer in these circumstances.

With regard to the cuts in funding those present asked :-

A] Will the next round of cuts mean that we have to cut hours?

B] If Community based contracts have a fixed hourly rate, will there be top-ups for certain Service Users and will there be emergency payments?

C] Are Supporting People actually taking any notice of PI notebooks? If a provider is performing at 100%+, will the promised reinstatement of a percentage of the cuts really materialise?

The meeting then briefly discussed the continuation of the forum. It would have to have a new title when Supporting People ends. This forum is a place where providers can get together, discuss problems and support one another. The licence to just talk to other providers is so valuable. Perhaps it would be possible to set up more regional groups in, for example, North and South Devon. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.30.

Next meeting.....6th December at Step One Services, Newton Abbot