

Devon Small Scale Provider Forum Meeting

Date:- 01.10.07

Time:- 10.00

Venue:- Step By Step, Dawlish

Those attending:-

Wendy Mason...Step One Services....chair

Linda Williams...Normanlea Society

Gary Bowld....Step By Step

Apologies:-

Mike Armstrong

Ian Greenaway

Rory Swift

Penny Wilkinson

Lesley Wick

Jan Navran

The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed.

The matter of the next meeting was then discussed. Despite the poor attendance this proved very productive.

Matthew Burridge, Teignbridge Social Services, has agreed to attend on 26th November. This will be very useful as Teignbridge has a different approach to some other areas and we have formulated the following questions for him.....

1] *The lack of information and insight shown by Social Services into what can and cannot be provided under the auspices of Supporting People and the responsibilities of Social Services for funding.*

Why do Social Services not have a definitive written statement of responsibilities? Supporting People has such a statement emphasising criteria but Social Services do not, neither have they responded accepting the Supporting People statement.

2] *Assessment and referrals.*

The referring agency must do assessments and care plans prior to providers taking on a new Service User. These should not be retrospective.

Why do Social Services not encourage the use of providers' referral forms and risk assessment forms before placements?

Do Social Services understand the difficulties in funding when a referral is outside of the immediate area and unrealistic for Small Scale Providers in terms of costing? [There is no variation in funding regardless of distance]

Are you aware of the hours expended in visits and assessments for new referrals?

How do you expect to be informed about available support hours?

3] *The inconsistencies and anomalies between different Social Services areas in the county.*

Do you realise how providers struggle to balance funding sources? Some areas in Devon pick up the shortfall in hours while others do not. Why are the different areas of Social Services not doing 'like for like' top ups?

4] *Contracts.*

Could contracts be made more specific to the needs of Service Users?

5] *Contacting Social Services.*

Problems are constantly arising because Social Services departments do not respond to letters, emails and telephone messages. Could this be rectified?

Would it be possible for providers to be informed about changes in staff etc in Social Services departments?

The meeting closed at 11.10

Next meeting:-

Monday 26th November 2007 10.00.....Step by Step, Dawlish

PLEASE TRY TO COME AS IT WILL BE VERY USEFUL !!