

Devon Small Scale Provider Forum Meeting

Date...11.4.11

Venue....Step One Services Ltd, Newton Abbot

Those present:-

Wendy Mason...chair

Paul Bird

Ian Greenaway

Jan Navran

Gary Bowld

Cara Cox

Apologies:-

Kay Nicholls

Lisa Dunn

Claire Lewis

Julie Underwood

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

It was agreed that it really 'pays' to attend DCC meetings and engage in the process. Next week [18th and 20th] there are meetings re the post PQQ situation.

Those present are very concerned about assessments of Service Users because the criteria for eligibility have tightened and also it seems that the assessments for funding will be undertaken by unqualified staff. Care managers have expressed concern about this. Again it was stressed that telephone assessments must be avoided and that Service Users must be encouraged to ask for an advocate [support staff or family] to be present.

Supporting People ceases in September and, until then, provider contracts will 'roll on'. SP monies will be absorbed into the DCC budget.

No more has been said about staging or delaying Lots 1 and 2. This seems unlikely now but perhaps an announcement will be made at next week's post PQQ meetings?

There is a strong feeling that large providers or cartels will move into Devon and DCC are courting them.

The meeting then moved on to a lengthy discussion of Direct Payments. There was an email re this from Graham Varley [attached]. Combined SP hours and Enabling hours will be called 'Community Based Support'. If a Service User is in receipt of Direct Payments for other services [e.g. enabling], they could, with certain exceptions, have SP hours transferred to DPs.

One of our members has managed to go down this route and now has all Service Users fully on DPs. She has not entered PQQ and will not be in the framework but is confident of receiving any new business from private referrals. The assessments were long and she made sure that a member of her staff was always present. A few support hours were, of course, lost ! This is typical of the sort of shared experience from which our group can benefit.

There are, of course, some concerns regarding Direct Payments in that such personalisation needs monitoring as it could lead to financial or personal abuse.

The future of the Small Scale Provider Forum was discussed and all present said that they would wish to continue in some form. A change of name and format [e.g. perhaps to include micro providers] will be discussed at the next meeting. Meanwhile the minutes secretary was asked to contact SP to ask what will happen with the SP website and publishing of minutes and dates. We will also contact the Provider Engagement Network about this.

Meeting closed at noon.

Next meeting.....

Monday 13th June 10.30 at Caraston Hall, Exeter.