

## Devon Small Scale Provider Forum Meeting

Date...14.02.11

Venue...Caraston Hall, Exeter

Those present:-

Wendy Mason...chair

Claire Lewis

Linda Williams

Paul Bird

Cara Cox

Ian Greenaway

Jan Navran

Gary Bowld

Apologies:-

Julie Underwood

Kay Nicholls

Lisa Dunn

The meeting was updated about the meeting of the Devon Independent Care Provider Association which had taken place on 11.02.11. It had been proposed that Lots 1 and 2 of the framework be at least delayed as the market is not ready and DCC are also clearly not ready for them. We cannot be expected to form consortia so quickly. The members of DICPA had been asked to each email Ian Hobbs, Director of Strategic Commissioning at DCC, to this effect and those present today agreed that our members should also do this....[ian.hobbs@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hobbs@devon.gov.uk). It is optimistically hoped that the inclusion of lots 1 and 2 may be delayed for 12 months.

The framework is divisive, detrimental to small companies and DCC are not going to save substantially with these ideas. Hourly rate setting changes would be better.

An idea has been floated that a positive alternative proposal might be made to DCC but this would require co-operation from a majority of small providers. Please look out for such an invitation.

You are strongly urged to engage in discussions of the framework proposals. Do not allow changes to happen by default.

There is a danger that businesses will compete and prices will be cut, which would favour large companies. We share interests and are not alone. We do not want the large companies to soak up the contracts. Small Providers care about their individual Service Users.

Questions were raised as to whether there would be a cut in funding in April. The Mental Health sector were informed of a cut last December so perhaps, as no such warning has been issued to other sectors, there will be a reprieve. It seems that there will 3 month zero rated rolling contracts for the time being.

The meeting talked about Direct Payments. There are 2 concerns that will apply for and manage DPs for Service Users. They are 'Independent Service Funds' and 'Disability Focus'.

The meeting closed at 11.45.

Useful web sites for you:-

[www.devon.gov.uk/providerengagementnetwork](http://www.devon.gov.uk/providerengagementnetwork)

[www.dipca.co.uk](http://www.dipca.co.uk)

Next meeting:-

To be arranged ASAP