

Devon Small Scale Provider Forum Meeting

Date:- 16.06.2010

Time:- 10.00

Venue:- Step One Services Newton Abbot

Those attending:-

Wendy Masonchair

Linda Williams

Jan Navran

Gary Bowld

Linda Dodd

Jamie Theobald

Apologies:-

Mike Armstrong

Ian Greenaway

Guest....Christiana Fisher...facilitator for Learning Exchange Network

Wendy Mason introduced everyone.

Jamie Theobald from Step One Services gave a short resume of the groups in Devon which providers would find helpful.

He urged providers to consider joining The Learning Exchange Network which provides a lot of information and has speakers.

Devon Care Training Group runs courses.

Devon Independent Advisors Association is a very useful group with good links and a vital avenue to accessing Devon County. At present the group meetings largely consist of domiciliary care providers but it is important that more Supported Living providers attend especially in view of the current proposals to scrap SP.

The meeting agreed that Small Providers are able to offer the type of 'bespoke' service which the larger companies cannot offer. Small Providers have a 'hub' office where the doors are always open to Service Users. They offer an holistic approach.

Yet again the issue of unpaid hours worked by providers was raised.

Christiana Fisher then spoke about her role and the services which are available:-

The Learning Exchange Network is a provider led programme, funded by the Dept of Health through Skills for Care, with local hub meetings.

Christiana keeps members apprised of all matters relevant to their

businesses. The feedback is impressive as providers find this supportive and informative.

Christiana then explained an initiative called 'Care Ambassadors' which champions carers. If a company has a particularly caring worker they can become a 'Care Ambassador'. There are approx 6 meetings a year and all costs are reimbursed. They might go into schools and colleges.

This chimes with the government's push to fund training for young people and create apprenticeships for care work.

The chairperson thanked Christiana very much.

Everyone agreed that the Small Scale Provider Forum provides peer support for its members. It is the best place for managers to find such help.

The meeting then went on to discuss the Putting People First meeting in Exeter on 2nd June which some of our members attended.

The purpose of that meeting was to explain Personal Budgets.

It was agreed that a lot of work was still needed to ensure security/guarantee of payments/safeguards against abuse of the system.

The matter of assessments for payments was discussed.

A tool is being developed by Gary Kent to aid personal assessments and we will let members know further information when available.

Is the Local Authority planning to provide support and advice for companies used?

Devon CC is historically poor at engaging with providers but they are, apparently, looking to revamp their systems.

The meeting closed at 12.00.

Next meetings :-

Wednesday 1st September 10.00 at Self Unlimited, South Molton EX36 4EY

Monday 6th December 10.00 Step One Services Newton Abbot