

## Devon Small Scale Provider Forum Meeting

Date:- 20.07.09

Time:- 10.00

Venue:- Step By Step, Dawlish

Those attending:-

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

Linda Williams...Normanlea Society

John Southcombe...Camphill

Gary Bowld....Step By Step

Kay Nicholls...Self unlimited

Lisa Dunn.... Self unlimited

Apologies:-

Mike Armstrong

Jan Navran

This meeting was held specifically to discuss the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June in Exeter with regard to performance-based funding.

The meeting discussed the following:-

It seems that Supporting People and Social Services will be working more closely together in the future. It is worrying, however, that monies will not be ring-fenced.

Supporting People are proposing a cut in funding of 10% unless providers can demonstrate that they give value for money but the forum felt that it is not yet clear what the performance criteria will be. It would be useful to have knowledge of the specific criteria before contracts are sent out.

Again the problem with Learning Disabled Service Users was highlighted as they tend to plateau or, indeed, deteriorate and it is impossible to reduce hours beyond a certain limit.

It is very difficult to obtain enabling hours from Social Services and the assessments for this tend to be based on practical skills with no recognition of emotional/social needs. It is hard to accept a new Service User when the hours proposed are insufficient and could set the Service User up to fail. This is often the case when accepting a new Service User through brokerage.

Enabling contracts, if properly assessed, may allow the actual needs of the Service User to be met.

The level of administration work for Supporting People hours is huge and not funded. Also providers are very concerned about the lack of funding for out of hours work [ e.g. attending police stations, hospitals etc] . Social Services rely on our goodwill to provide these services and we act in the moment of need.

Whilst the group felt that the meeting in Exeter was good, providers are concerned how the changes will affect Service Users.

At our next meeting we will discuss, among other things, the possibility of different venues for our meetings. [We have been offered venues in North Devon and Exeter for example].

If you have any particular concerns please email the minutes secretary and they can be added to the agenda.

**Please note the change of venue for the next meeting.**

The meeting closed at 11.00.

Next meeting:- 10.00 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Step One Services Ltd  
Market Square  
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