

## Devon Small Scale Provider Forum Meeting

Date:- 21.09.09

Time:- 10.00

Venue:- Step One Services, Newton Abbot

Those attending:-

Wendy Mason...chair

Linda Williams

Ian Greenaway

Jan Navran

Linda Dodd

Lisa Dunn

Kay Nicholls

Jamie Theobald

Apologies:-

Mike Armstrong

Helen Scott

Guests....Richard Crompton [email [richardc@shilhay.org.uk](mailto:richardc@shilhay.org.uk) ]

Lucie Spiers [[lucie.spiers@devon.gov.uk](mailto:lucie.spiers@devon.gov.uk) ]

The chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming those present and, in particular the two guests who had kindly come to explain the cuts in funding and the Performance Assessment Format.

Richard Crompton from Shilhay Community, then took the floor to describe his role as a provider representative on the steering committee for the homeless sector for PAF.

This committee has been working on a draft model to assess provider performance at provider and contract levels. This will initially be used for the homeless sector but will be the model on which the PAFs will be designed for other sectors. Each of the five sectors will modify the model to make it relevant. At present the amount of money in the 'pot' and the distribution between sectors are unknown.

The last date for completion of the initial model is December 2009.

The next two sectors to be looked at will be Mental Health and Learning Disabled.

Richard said that providers need to be positive and make the best of the assessments and cuts.

Comparisons will be made by the criteria of Performance/Economy/Efficiency/Effectiveness.

The first assessments will be made on the existing Supporting People data, the main sources being workbooks and outcomes.

There are two key target areas...planned move ons and % utilisation of capacity.

i.e. effectiveness= move ons/efficiency=% utilisation/ economy=a fair priced service.

Lucie Spiers from SP said that QAFs are due in on 1<sup>st</sup> October but, when asked, was not sure if these would continue to be used.

The meeting was opened for questions.

It was agreed that cuts were particularly difficult for small businesses in regard to staffing etc.

Once again the meeting pointed out the number of unpaid hours required of small scale providers who do not have separate office staff to deal with hugely time consuming paperwork.

Those present were extremely concerned about the effectiveness assessment in the Learning Disabled sector as, although reductions in services to a Service User may occur, move ons are rare.

Lucie replied to this concern by saying that this was an area which should be discussed at the PAF steering committee for the Learning Disabled sector and that the National Indicator used would differ from others.

She also explained that 'bench marking' is based on comparisons with similar Local Authorities.

She was asked how small providers could have input to these decisions and she advised that Max Sillars be contacted with a view to representation on the steering committee. Wendy Mason will contact him.

Cuts in funding

Richard gave the amounts as 10% in year 2 and a further 10% in year three. However, the meeting expressed concern that Lucie stated 10% in year 2 and 20% in year 3. *Obviously clarification is needed.*

Any funding coming back will be based on performance.

Lucie was asked whether it might be better to have a set price for services with add-ons where required. She said that the framework would contain a 'value for money' clause.

Those present agreed that small providers give a quality service and know their service users very well.

When asked whether it was economically worthwhile to spend many extra administrative hours on the additional paperwork for the sake of a small % return in funding, Lucie replied that this was optional for providers.

She was then asked whether Supporting People would continue to exist and replied that Devon had no plans to change this at present.

Those present asked when they might expect their contracts but this is unsure.

The chairperson expressed thanks to the guests who then left.

It had been a valuable exercise and a shame that more people did not attend. Providers need to work collectively for recognition of their work and the valuable add-ons which they provide which save Supporting People and Social Services money.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

There followed a discussion of venue and dates/times for meetings. The secretary read an email from Mike Armstrong. Those present agreed that Monday mornings were best for them however and that Step One Services was a good venue. Times and venues will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next two meetings were set for :-

11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 10.00 at Step One Services, Newton Abbot

1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 at 10.00 at Step One Services, Newton Abbot

*However, should you wish to contact the secretary [Lin] when you get your contracts, a quick meeting could be arranged.*