

## **TEIGNBRIDGE LOCALITY CARERS FORUM**

Summary of meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Angela Sampson chaired the meeting. 25 people attended.

**PRESENT :-** 13 Carers, Jenny Store Parent Carers Voice, Sonia Barton Westbank League of Friends/ Carers UK, Julia Blood Take a Break Sitting Service, Liz Hodgson Teignbridge Carers Support (CMH), Shirley Fewings Take a Break Sitting Service, Matt Burrige Teignbridge Learning Disability Team, Rosemary Whitehurst Carers Link Worker Teignbridge, Colin Crowther Information Officer The Stroke Association, Sue White Carers in Devon Support Team, Jackie Milan Learning Disability Carers Support Worker, Sally Morgan County Councillor, Jenny Rayner Temporary Administrator South Devon Carers Consortium

**Apologies:-** Wendy Price Assistant Director Clare Cotter Teignbridge Commissioning Team, Justin Haden Co-Ordinator South Devon Carers Consortium  
2 Carers

### **NEWS UPDATE**

- 1) Flu Jabs – Teignbridge Primary Care Trust Lead have informed The Chair of the Locality Forum that Carers are entitled to receive this immunisation. In the first instance it is best to contact the GP surgery this should be done on or around the 14<sup>th</sup> December – there are shortages of the vaccine but it is an entitlement for Carers
- 2) The Primary Care Trusts have from 01/10/06 become New Devon Primary Care Trust this excludes Torquay and Plymouth who are Unitary authorities
- 3) Social Services have now become Adult and Community Services and for those under 18 The Children's Trust. The two Directors are David Johnstone and Anne Whiteley
- 4) Daw Vale / Kenwyn update. The decision on these services has been deferred as they are now part of a whole group being considered.
- 5) Watcombe Hall – The Patient and Public Information are holding a public meeting at Livermead House on 18/10/06 at 6-8
- 6) There is an expo ageing event Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at The Scout Hall, Wolborough St, Newton Abbot, Devon opposite the New ASDA, presented by TOPPS ( The Older People's Partnership Services), there will be information, feel fit demonstrations and free electric blanket testing.
- 7) Powderham County Store Restaurant : 2 members had gone for lunch there and had written on the feedback form how unhelpful the shape of the cutlery was for dining. As a result two sorts of cutlery will now be available – Please do use feedback forms to inform services of unhelpful items and practices as it can make changes

- 8) AS as Locality Forum chair has been attending Keeping Care Local workshops to set up a model for a POPPS bid, hoping that this will be piloted in Teignbridge. The outcome of the bid will be known by December 2006
- 9) AS has also been attending the County Steering Group whose membership includes, David Johnstone, Angela White, Heather Barnes and Sally Morgan. This meeting is where issues from the Locality are fed through to County Level and vice versa. Learning Disabilities, Carers' Training, Expenses and Equal Opportunities Correspondence are beginning to see some actions. The group has been covering several topics these include:-

Lack of commitment of Managers to attend Forums – this is a Devon Wide Group, and it was noted that this was not the case in Teignbridge. There is a procedure to be put in place now that these Managers either attend or send a suitable deputy

Emergency Respite Care and Availability – David Johnstone is trying to co-ordinate a panel and is looking for Carers to assist. If you are interested please contact AS in the first instance

Learning Disabilities – Carers felt that they have not been heard or consulted and a group of North Devon Carers are meeting with David Johnstone

Carers' spend – Some Managers have not been forthcoming with figures. Unfortunately Learning Disability figures have not been agreed from County, nor the Locality and David Johnstone is now asking why this is

As from 11/09/06 Domiciliary care for housework for an elderly carer can be received in certain cases if the Carer is already providing personal care

Transition through to Adult Care – Young Carers are to tie in with Special Needs Grants and monies are allocated on a formula including population.

There are concerns that the Monitoring of Adult and Community Services will lose some in house knowledge as Primary Care Trusts and Devon County Council use a commissioning system. The Commission for Social Care Inspection has no remit for Carers

- 10) Jo Pickering The new Rural Carers Project Manager will be attending the next Forum to run a focus group on Carers issues

Partnership Trust Learning Disability and Mental Health Review – The Carer who was requested to sit on this has withdrawn, reasons include lack of background information, time allowed before asking for a Carer and a feeling that they did not have the skills. The Carer requested that requests for Advisors at Meetings should be more focussed, also who goes now. There was no reimbursement of time there is now equality of Pay as set out in the Department of Health's Feb 06 documentation Reward and Recognition. Carers at this meeting feel this has gone on for at least 6 or 7 years and would wish for this to be flagged up at every meeting.

Carers Reference Group: Sue White sits on this group and will pass to Graham Parnell through Linda Stapleton that a replacement for this Carer is needed and will open it up through all the six localities

RC Vice Chair of the Locality Forum attending a meeting with Wendy Price Assistant Director and found her very approachable, she does want to hear Carers' concerns as she needs to be made aware. Rose has her contact details if anybody wishes to contact her. One Carer mentioned the issue of pavements and suggested that perhaps a video of these meeting could be made to show other Carers/powers that be.

19/10./06 Sees the launch of Care Pathways at Newton Abbot Racecourse from 2-4. It is about helping people to see the way head.

County Carers Forum – Please send in any questions as soon as possible as the Next Forum is being held at Buckfast Abbey on Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30 – 12.30

**Presentation about New Take A Break Services ( Phil Dyson was due to lead this but unfortunately is away on sick leave and Sue White kindly informed the meeting of plans) For further information please read the attached sheet on the new Guidelines.**

The ethos behind the new 'Take a Break' Scheme is to provide a uniform and equitable service within a county wide specification. This should be less bureaucratic as there will be no care management assessment needed for the minimum allocation of 3 hours per Carer which can be saved into 12 hour blocks. This scheme will apply to Carers of Adults with Physical Disabilities, Older Persons, Older Persons with a mental health diagnosis and Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability.

All requests for hours will go through a broker at Westbank League of Friends. The key difference is in personal care and the restriction to 3 hours per week charged at £2.50 per hour. Any night care is outside of this specification.

Carers raised issues about Carers of this with Mental Health aged 18-65 years and Learning Disabilities are not included. The Provider of the contract will probably provide less hours due to the costings. The budget for Teignbridge is £70,000 for day care and £30,000 for nights - negotiations are ongoing. The scheme will be phased in between now and 31/03/07

Concerns were raised that:-

the new scheme has the same name as a provider of services in Teignbridge and is causing confusion.

How will Carers be involved in the monitoring?

There may be a waiting list for service provision as the provider is currently up to maximum levels

Mike Eckersley informed the group that Devon Partnership Trust Representative Groups where there were previously six are now divided into South Hams West Devon and Teignbridge, Exeter and East Devon, Mid and North Devon. The New Chief Executive is Dr. Kevin Smee  
Mental Health Older People's equivalent is Sally Galding.

Carers at the meeting requested that there could be a PALS service for Social Services no Adult and Community Services as all the changes are confusing. Further, how many assessments would all this provision need.

A Carer raised the question of how many people should be involved in an assessment in light of the Single Assessment Process; she herself had so far met 14 different people to try to get services.

**The Forum was reminded that carers are entitled to a separate Carers' assessment.**

Carers were also concerned about the move towards Direct Payments and what this entailed. Maggie Hogarth is putting together a small team to explore routes. There is an overall move towards Self Directed Care

The Forum requested Clarity about Take a Break updates in the future and the difference between the two services old and new

### **Jo Curtis PALS**

Jo reiterated that flu jabs are available and any concerns or difficulties to please register them with her on her freephone number 0800 389 1744.

(Flu jabs are widely available at Chemists at £16)

The Expert Patient Programme is now called Looking After Me and there is a course being run for Carers in the Spring of 2007. This will be a six week course for 2.5 hours per week. Again like the previous expert patient programme this will examine triggers, support to get more confidence and, is run by Carers/Patients themselves

Carers asked if there were Respite or Travel Costs available - Jo will check this out

Jo is also interested to hear from any Carers that would wish to train as Carers

### **Equality For Carers (Change of Speaker from Brenda Laker, not now in post to Sue White)**

Sue updated the Forum on the different issues and methods surrounding Black and Minority Ethnic Groups in Devon. Devon is continually challenged by statute about their actions and services in relation to Equal Opportunities and now diversity issues.

April 2007 will also see the Work and Families Act/Carers, Devon has a host of BME groups including migrant workers, agricultural workers, gypsy/travelling communities.

At the census in 2001 the highest BME group within Devon were Chinese, a new census is due in 2010. The nearest mosques are Torbay and Exeter and there is an Islam and Muslim Conference being held in Exeter – details left for any Carer interested.

Teignbridge and South Hams had undertaken a cultural audit that quoted 320 diverse backgrounds.

How Carer Friendly are our services to the Chinese, Eastern Europeans or Gypsy Travellers?

**Carers Rights Day/Carers UK**

In light of the absence of a pertinent MP, Exeter and Teignbridge are combining their day on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006. There will be a Benefits Drop In on that day. Any Questions are needed by October 30<sup>th</sup> in order that the answers can be researched.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2007 Ten Tors Inn Kingsteignton 10.30- 1.00 followed by a buffet lunch Hope to see you there