

Lancashire Forum of UKHCA Members

NOTES FROM THE MEETING HELD AT

PRIORY HOMECARE LTD.

FOUR OAKS, GARSTANG ROAD, ST MICHAELS –ON-WYRE, PR3 0TD.

TUESDAY 19 MAY 2009

Notes Of Last Meeting

Everybody agreed that they had received the notes from the last meeting and that they were accurate.

Matters Arising

These were deferred to the agendared items.

Secretary's Report

Carol reported that UKHCA national have sent her sufficient literature and advertising to be able to hold a UKHCA awareness stand at any future suitable events. We are still waiting the date of the next LCA/LCC working together day.

Report From LWDP Board Member

Carol reminded everybody that there was a considerable amount of funding available to use on a wide range of training, accessible via Lancashire Plan. Everybody present used Lancashire Plan. Some people present felt that the Lancashire Plan User Group was beneficial. Carol will advise when the next meeting is via email. Jan was disappointed that LWDP had not given enough notice for the future courses on Self-Directed Support. Carol will ask if they are going to re-run this training. Alastair felt that being paid for training was still an issue and he was now using 'robust tracking' of payments. Carol reminded Alaister of Lancashire Plan's Funding Manager facility.

Feedback from Skills For Care

There has been no Skills For Care meeting since our last meeting but the general news is that SFC are working with job centres to try and raise the profile of social work and also on a government scheme of training adults to enable them to gain the skills necessary to find work.

Feedback from SCP

LCC are no longer pursuing the 'true cost of care' via Laing & Buisson. It was felt that on comparison with other counties, LCC pay a good hourly rate, and that the increase in April 2009 was also good. However, this increase is soon eaten up, not only by inflation, but mostly by the government's increase in national minimum holiday pay which works out at approximately 2% extra.

Safeguarding Adults, Salnet is being discussed and evaluated by LCC. It was asked for experiences that companies around the table and/or anybody viewing these minutes could feedback to Julie Evans so that she could take these to the next SCP meeting.

Around the table it was commented that this agenda had good objectives, especially the whistle blowing policy. However, there was some concern whereby in the event of a client under Safeguarding, LCC expected that the social care workers were removed from the care package, but the district nurses could still provide their own service. Carol indicated that this issue should be fully reported to Julie Evans to discuss at the SCP meeting.

Concerns around the table about the introduction of Self Directed Support were discussed and it was suggested that the introduction of SDS was going to be a long journey and attending as many training sessions as possible was recommended.

Provider brokerage was discussed and it would appear that LCC have not drawn up any contractual conditions for this as yet.

Surgery Time

It was brought to the group's attention of the possibility of the Department of Health declaring that the recent outbreak of swine flu will be considered pandemic by the autumn. It was felt that the D o H would make it mandatory for social care workers to wear special masks. No information on any of the websites concerning swine flu is suggesting this and it was suggested that this point would be handed over to either Julie or Ian to take to the next SCP meeting. An important question is, who would pay for the masks?

It was also suggested that possibly our forum could negotiate a really good price for purchasing gloves and aprons for all our members to have access to. We agreed that figures should be brought to our next meeting for further discussion.

The introduction of the Independent Safeguarding Authority has been postponed until 2011. Jan Jacob will be attending the next meeting and will feedback accordingly. This system will replace the CRB. All care workers would have to apply themselves and each application will be valid for 3 years.

The next SCP meeting is in 14 July 2009, so please ensure that you email anything you want our representatives to discuss.

Meeting closed – next meeting Tuesday 21 July 2009.