

Lancashire Forum of UKHCA Members
Notes from the Meeting
held at Priory Restaurant, Scorton
Tuesday 12 February 2008

Present: Carol Smith
Julie Evans
Alastair MacDonald
Ian Newby

Apologies: Diane Smillie
Steve Birchall
Leonard Cheshire
Martin Mchugh

Notes Of Last Meeting

These were accepted

Matters Arising

These were deferred to the agenda items.

Secretary's Report

The application on behalf of the Forum to have a representative on the LWDP Board (as a care provider) is still waiting to be considered. It is hoped that this will be on the agenda at their next board meeting, as Paul Simic has been making some enquiries.

We have managed to secure Mike Webster's (LCC) and the LWDP's agreement to set up a link for the UKHCA Lancashire Forum on the LWDP website, and thanks to Stuart Grice, it is now up and running. Please check it out - it has dates of all our forthcoming meetings and it will publish notes from our meetings once they have been agreed along with notes from the meetings of the Social Care Partnership.

We have had correspondence from Colin Angel (UKHCA) which includes a lot of information about the Competition Act and general advice about local forums within the UKHCA, such as ours and are currently waiting to hear about any additional support they may be able to offer.

The Social Care Partnerships has been successful in its bid for a substantial increase of 6% in domiciliary fees for 2008/09. Full information and details of the proposed increase can be seen on the UKHCA web page via the LWDP web site. Our congratulations and thanks go to the UKHCA reps and our colleagues at the LCA.

Feedback From Working Group Members

Julie and Ian confirmed the good news about the proposed fees increase.

However, they explained that part of the increase was to be linked to agency performance against the standards of the Dignity In Care Charter' which is currently under consultation with the SCP.

The implementation of the fee uplift linked to the Dignity in Care Charter is still being agreed by the SCP.

Additions to the new domiciliary contract are still in draught form and available on the LCC web site. Comments and suggestions are invited.

LCC are still trying to create links with PCT and NHS to secure money for high dependency social care, in particular medication administration.

The Lancashire Gateway scheme is currently out to tender (information days were held around the county regarding the scheme. These included workshops on how Lancashire is going to meet the White Paper - Fair

Access to Care, and delivering an appropriate gateway to the residents of Lancashire.

The Laing & Buisson Fair Price For Care exercise has proved to be very disappointing with only 26 forms completed and returned by social care providers. These were of insufficient quality to do a proper analysis. However a representative of Laing & Buisson has said that although they are able to tabulate the results there was insufficient data to enable a true cost of care.

LWDP are going to have an anniversary day sometime in May to celebrate and improve awareness of the partnership.

Social Services, as part of the targets for preferred providers, are going to do their own quality assurance survey, and this will be done directly between Social Services and service users. The results of their QA will be discussed with each company by their Contracts Officer as part of their monitoring. A draught form of this QA is available on the LCC website if you have not already received one. CSCI will not accept the result of this QA so companies will still be expected to do their own QA and report to CSCI via the AQAA document.

Commissioning - the criteria of who Social Services contract with, still includes each company's CSCI rating. The CSCI rating list is due to be published soon. However, they have announced that each company's rating will be discussed with them and time will be allowed to improve the rating. The CSCI rating, together with the criteria of meeting the Dignity in Care Charter, may result in a two tier fee policy (see item on 6% fee increase above) and subsequent grading of the preferred provider list.

Feedback From Skills For Care Member

A replacement for the UKHCA representative on Skills for Cares Regional Committee has still not been found therefore Julie Evans has offered to continue attending meetings for the time being. Anyone interested in taking up this post should contact the forums chairman or representatives.

Surgery Time

Discussion took place around an email from one of our forums members listing some issues surrounding email commissioning / zoning in the Lancaster area. The forum agreed that it was not appropriate for the reps. to take this issue to the SCP meeting at this stage however one of the forum members present was able to advise the group that this was to be an agenda item at the next local PP meeting in Lancaster on Tuesday 26th February. Further concerns raised regarding the new Finance team at Morecambe and the payment of respite vouchers is to be addressed directly to the finance department.

Social Services and NMDS have published figures on staff retention and everyone around the table felt that the figures did not reflect their own company's experience!

The concern about VAT was again discussed. We are hoping that UKHCA will again lobby government in order to reinstate zero rating for domiciliary care. A discussion took place about the criteria for VAT exemption and how this did or did not apply to domiciliary care.

Meeting Closed - next meeting Tuesday 8 April 2008.