

Lancashire Forum of UKHCA Members

NOTES FROM THE MEETING HELD AT THE PRIORY HOTEL, SCORTON. TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 2008

Notes Of Last Meeting

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

Matters Arising

A discussion took place about individual budgets. Concerns were raised as to whether there would be any policing and requirements for the social care workers that service users employed directly. UKHCA has made the recommendation that social care workers must have a CRB and receive training. It is the government's intention that 50% of social care users, by 2010, would be in receipt of an individual budget. It was questioned how much of this 50% would be in the different client groups, e.g. Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, as opposed to the Adult client group.

Secretary's Report

We have heard from the LWDP and our application to have a member of our group, namely the Chairperson, on their Board has been successful. Following a meeting with LWDP's acting chair, Carol Smith has been invited to their next meeting. Carol will report back at our next meeting.

Carol thanked all the companies who returned our survey on your thoughts about whether Lancashire County Council should make the use of Lancashire Plan mandatory or not. We had a good response with the majority of people saying that it should be a contractual requirement. This information was passed on to our LCC Working Group.

Carol asked everybody if they had received information that she circulated on behalf of such bodies as Skills For Care and also reminded everybody that the aim of our Forum was to pass on information to all our members, and also to gather their opinions and problems on issues.

Report From Skills For Care

Julie Evans confirmed that Jan Jacob was now our representative. In Jan's absence Julie reported that there was nothing new from Skills For Care as not many meetings were held during the summer months. Skills For Care were continuing their work on the New Type Of Care Worker (NTOW).

Report From LCC Working Group Member

Julie had only attended one meeting at which it was announced that:

- (a) Chris Cheetham was no longer the Councillor and she was introduced to Anne Brown who is the new Councillor.
- (b) The launch of the Dignity In Care Charter had been a great success. Contracts will soon be writing to all companies asking them how they were implementing the Charter and how they could demonstrate this.
- (c) LCC/LWDP have agreed and have written to both Domiciliary and Residential companies, asking them to take up the offer of a free computer for training purposes. They are also considering having a library of E Learning packages. The first one to be Dignity In Care.

Corporate Manslaughter

Carol Smith confirmed that there had been an article in the May issue of the UKHCA Homecarer magazine, which should answer any queries that members may have. It was also recommended that each company should check the details of their insurance as it could be a contractual requirement for the company to ensure that their care workers maintain their vehicles to the required legal standards. If this is the case, one suggestion was that at each appraisal the care worker had to sign to accept responsibility for this.

Surgery Time

Carol brought up the recent memo from our Forum regarding the new legislation on in-house trainers. She confirmed that you can access the IFL website www.ifl.ac.uk and register for free. You can also enter all your training qualifications and they give you guidelines about what you need to meet the legislation.

PTLLS is done by 5 days training and some assignment work. Around the table we had reports of training being delivered by Training 2000, Runshaw College and VOISE. Everybody was reminded that funding from LWDP is available.

It was brought to our attention that LCC was giving notification that tendering was in process for the new Preferred Provider list for 2010. The expression of interest was currently ongoing.

Advice was to check out Intend if you had not already done so.

A discussion took place about delivering social care for PCT teams and the possibility of this work going to tender. Carol said that she would try and research this further. We did know that LCC have plans to open up the web to be used as a brokerage system for all purchasers of social care, to include private service users, individual budget service users, PCTs etc.

Meeting Closed – next meeting Tuesday 14 October 2008