

UKHCA LANCASHIRE FORUM

Notes of the Meeting of Tuesday 11 December 2007

Notes Of Last Meeting

These were accepted

Matters Arising

None

Secretary/Chairman Report

In the absence of a UKHCA Lancashire forum web site the LWDP has agreed to allow us to have a link on their site. In future we will publish the minutes of our bi-monthly meeting, dates of future meetings and any other issues that may be of interest to UKHCA and Preferred Provider organisations. Additionally LCC have agreed to allow our Forum to publish the minutes of the Social Care Partnership and those of the Domiciliary Working Group.

City & Guilds have replied to the Forum's concerns about inappropriate NVQ III candidates. They agree that NVQ III is only appropriate for people with a job description including a supervisory role, However they will require evidence of such incidents before they can do anything about it. They have also advised that if a company is looking for a bridging qualification for a carer their qualifications on health and social care (additional units) are available on their website www.cityandguilds.com.

We also have had a reply from LWDP who informs us that 'a learner who has completed level II can complete any further units they wish and there are no awarding body costs for 3 years from registration. The level III units can be accessed separately and the awarding bodies charge a unit fee for this which is considerably less than the full award. All centres have to offer a unit accreditation if requested as a requirement of their accreditation'. Our concerns have also been registered with LWDP for consideration when funding such training. LWDP have also been asked to consider single NVQ units to be available for funding in the next years program. The concerns will be passed to our new Skills for Care representative when the post is filled.

It was agreed that the membership fee for the year 2007/08 would remain at the same amount of £20.00. This covers the cost of administration of the Forum. The use of any unspent funds is to be discussed at a future meeting.

We have not received a reply to our letter in which we invited the vice chairman of the UKHCA to attend one of our meetings. Our secretary/chair agreed to follow this up.

LWDP still have not had the opportunity to consider our request to have a member of our group on their Board to represent social care providers. However, one of our

members has been elected by Training Providers to sit on the Training Provider sub group.

Feedback from the Social Care Partnership Working Group

Laing & Buisson's survey has now closed and disappointingly, the conclusions will be based on information provided by 26 companies within Lancashire. Due to the lateness in submissions from providers Laing and Buisson are currently saying they will not have the report ready in time for this years fee increase negotiations. The increase in Fees should be announced in January 2008. Social Services are issuing a new Contract for providers of Social Care. The new contract will contain:

Changes in the suspension policy

Conditions relating to CSCI

Conditions relating to Outcome Based Commissioning

Conditions relating to Web Based Commissioning

A 'late billing' clause

Conditions relating to safeguarding of adults

S/S contracts department have also devised a new quality assurance form which is to be sent to all service users. It has been acknowledged that providers may still want to continue sending their own questionnaires as the data from them may form part of internal monitoring systems. Social Services intend only to release statistical data from the information they collect. The working group are still looking into whether CSCI will still expect agencies to complete service user surveys.

It is likely that there will be additional cuts to services as a result of the change in the assessment criteria. There is to be some extensive service user reviews starting in the New Year. Social Services will be giving service users who no longer meet the criteria the Preferred Provider list.

The New Type of Care Worker

Research has shown that the industry is losing a significant amount of staff. However, many domiciliary care workers leave to go to residential care, as well as many leaving the care industry altogether. It has been identified that government funding spent on training new care workers is then wasted. This is made worse as the average pay for care workers does not attract people of the right caliber to undertake the necessary training.

Local Information Gateways

Lancashire is following other counties to meet the White Paper directions of fair access to care and is researching the most appropriate way of providing all residents of Lancashire with a directory of services available.

Direct Payments

The success of this is being evaluated. However, it would appear that there are many concerns as workers are not regulated and so government money is not being spent wisely.

LWDP

Future training monies from the LWDP will be paid directly to care providers, the option for payment to be made to the training provider will no longer be available.

Skills For Care Representative

The Forum is still waiting for confirmation from Complete Care that their training manager will accept this vacant post.

Surgery Time

Concerns were raised that the CRB were changing the criteria for being a clearance centre. It is now mandatory that they must deal with a minimum of 100 applicants a year to maintain their status. It was confirmed that Watch Homecare are not in danger of losing their status.

Not all areas are having regular preferred provider meetings and some invites were going astray. It was confirmed, however that the next Lancaster PP meeting will take place 26/2/08.

Meeting Closed - Next meeting Tuesday 12 February 2008.

'All views expressed in this document are representative of the UKHCA (Lancashire Forum) and are not necessarily those of UKHCA national'.