

# Lancashire Forum of UKHCA Members

## NOTES FROM THE MEETING HELD AT THE PRIORY HOTEL, SCORTON.

**TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

### **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 agenda items.

### **Secretary's Report**

Carol informed the meeting that the LWDP had accepted to have a member of the UKHCA Lancashire Forum on their board. Carol has been to her first board meeting and that the forum should use her to represent views to LWDP. Any issues could be communicated to Carol at our meetings or via email. The forum were also informed of the free computers available from LWDP and that funding for training was still available. The LWDP stake holders event on 5/11/08 was a great success, with stands from Peninsula (who are offering another year of free employment legislation advice), and Skills/Eills. Carol apologised that a financial report was not available but this would be ready for the next meeting. It was predicted that the 'kitty' of membership fees would still be in credit due to minimal expenditure. As a result, it was agreed that the membership fees for 2008/09 would be waived.

### **Skills For Care Update**

Regional Committee members

It is proposed that regional committee members will rotate on a three year basis as Jan Jacob has just taken over representing UKHCA we will not need to change our rep until AUG 2011 unless as a group we decide to appoint an alternative.

### **Skill For Care Budgets**

2009/2010 budgets have been cut considerably not all budget have been declared so until the new year it is not possible to give a prediction as to how this will directly effect training for the care sector.

The general budget for Skill for Care North West has been cut from £1,123,652 to £758,947 this budget is for the running of the Skill for Care offices in the North West and for on going projects.

### **ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority)**

This register is due to come into operation on 2010 there may be a delay on this as there are some problems related to Data Protection. Watch this space.

### **Report from Social Care Partnership**

It was raised at the SCP meeting that some providers were submitting invoices to social services three to six months after the due date. The partnership was asked how they felt this problem should be addressed and it was agreed by all present that the terms of the contract with social services should be applied. Therefore, letters are to be sent to those providers who are at fault giving them the opportunity to improve their systems but also warning of the implications of failing to submit invoices on time.

Social services have recognised that it may be unfair to withhold payment for care provider invoices because of a discrepancy that may only be for a small amount. In future the bulk of invoices will be paid.

There are still a number of providers that have not signed up to the Dignity in Care Charter. Those providers that have still not signed up to the charter by the beginning of the new financial year will lose the financial uplift related to the dignity initiative. A letter is to be sent to providers informing them of the details.

There has been a slow but reasonable response from providers regarding the free computer that is available from the local authority for training purposes. The local authority (LA) will write to providers to re-enforce the offer. The new SU questionnaire that the L/A has designed has been piloted with a small number of agencies and is now ready to be run out across all providers. The information collated from the SU questionnaire will be collated and statistical information made available.

Solicitors representing providers are looking at the LA and provider contract. The Learning Disability contract is being used to agree a generic template for contracts that can be applied to provider / social service contracts across all sectors.

Negotiations for next years fee increase are scheduled to commence at the next SCP meeting in November.

Provider Expressions of Interest for the Preferred Provider list are being assessed and it is the LA intention to use extended contract monitoring procedures to ascertain continued suitability of providers already on the list. There have been 165 applications from providers wishing to be on the Learning Disabilities List therefore, the authority are re-visiting the tender criteria and will issue new guidelines.

The piece of work commissioned from Laing & Buisson to ascertain a "Fair Price for Care" has failed to materialise and the agreement with them terminated. Providers are to be asked if they still feel that this piece of work is required and in what form. UKHCA to write to providers for advice.

Carol agreed to ask Brian Monk to send out an email to all Preferred Providers asking them to sign up to the Dignity In Care Charter.

### **Direction of the Forum**

A discussion took place on the direction of our forum and it was agreed to keep the forum as a very informal discussion group whereby any preferred provider can meet, air their views and gain two-way representation via our SCP/LWDP/Skills For Care members.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The meeting arranged for 9/12/08 has been cancelled. Meetings for 2009 are as follows:

13/1/09, 10/3/09, 12/5/09, 14/7/09, 8/9/09, 10/11/09 (AGM). The venue is to be alternated between Scorton and Preston. All meetings will be notified by email shortly before the date with venue and time confirmed.

### **Election of Officers**

The current officers who have been working hard in their posts, building good working relations within their groups, are quite happy to continue. They have only been replaced in the past due to resignations. The group agreed that there was no need to hold elections for the posts at present.

### **Surgery Time**

A discussion took place on the subject of personalised care and individual budgets. Concerns were raised about brokerage. It was recommended that each business is registered with as many directories as possible (e.g. Shop For Care, Help Directory, Gateways Project etc.). Losing staff was also a concern raised as was the overall risk in the reduction of quality of care. It was recommended that enforcing CRBs to individual budget customers was essential and that the opportunity for training was made available to the service user for their care worker.

Julie Evans made a recommendation which she would be taking to the next SCP meeting - Social Services should pass on deferred risks about a service user who's package of care was changing from one provider to another. Julie felt that quite often, if a care provider was having a concern over the service user (e.g. two carers required, service user having contagious disease or any such problem that could pose a risk to the care worker), when the social worker was asked for advice the package of care could be closed and taken over by another care provider who would be ignorant of the problems and not be able to manage such risk adequately. This was deemed to be not good practice and Social Services should have a policy on good practice for conveying risk assessments.

Availability of e-learning via the free computers was discussed and Carol Smith confirmed that e-learning was a proposed activity and the first module would be on training on Dignity In Care and she believed this would be available in the new year.

Meeting closed - next meeting Tuesday 13 January 2009