

HEREFORDSHIRE SUPPORTED HOUSING FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2006

Present: Elizabeth Bantham (Abbeyfield), Cath Baker (Herefordshire Mind), Tracey Davis (New Dawn), Denise Clarke (Herefordshire Mind), Ian Gardner (Herefordshire Council), Pauline Griffiths (Carr Gomm), Dave Hider (SHYPP), Richard Kelly (Herefordshire Lifestyles), Michael King (Kemble Care), Tony Lafford, (Salters Hill Charity), Sandra Laurence (Adult Placement), Dawn Stradling (Supporting People), Andrew Strong (Herefordshire Mind) – Chairing, Sandra Walton (Elgar Housing), Jean Wills (Salters Hill Charity).

Apologies: Lorretta Hudson (First Key), Jan Frances (Herefordshire Womens' Aid), Sunita Hopkins (Shelter), Ginnie Jaques (First Key), Bernadette Wason (Housing 21).

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting and all introduced themselves.

2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting on 7th December 2005

Accuracy

The meeting agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

Matters arising

Strategy Group – Ian said that briefing notes of meeting on 6.1.06 were a concise summary of what was a long meeting. The group had appreciated information sharing. However he felt that this had not yet been translated into actions to take forward. The next meeting would not be until the new financial year.

National strategy – Ian said that a consultant had been engaged to help in the distribution formula. He said that a concise and well reasoned report had been sent off in response to the strategy. This response would be disseminated to the forum. Ian also undertook to ensure that the forum members received copies of the West Mercia Cross Authority Group response.

3.0 National and Regional SP Update – Sandra Evans

Sandra had sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting today. Andrew said that she may not be able to attend future meetings although if given notice she may be able to attend to speak about a specific issue. She had prepared a briefing paper which Andrew distributed to the meeting.

Dave Hider said that Herefordshire had been one of the first to set up their forum however others had formulated effective working groups as well. Ian said that The West Mercia Group had produced their Terms of Reference. The meeting talked about the need to get a small group together to discuss outcomes. Members were also encouraged to attend the Regional Chairs Forum.

4.0 Herefordshire Update – Ian Gardner

All providers should by now have received the confirmation that the inflationary increase would be paid. SPOCC.net the Supporting People accounting system would be on-line on 1st April. This system would be used for invoice returns however its use was not a mandatory requirement. Chris Jones would be implementing the system and would be providing training. The group agreed that they would like training on a group basis. Ian undertook to arrange the training with Chris and to see that all providers were e-mailed with the proposed date.

Dawn reported that since April 2003, 73 reviews had taken place. Of these 18 had transferred, 41 had been re-commissioned, 7 re-modelled and 7 de-commissioned. She felt that a consistent approach had been used and was pleased with the outcomes. There had been considerable improvement since the last round.

The meeting discussed the merits of the QAF. Some felt that it provided an invaluable benchmark to achieve the next level. Others felt that it was more to do with process rather than the outcomes. Ian said that outcomes in the future would form conditions of contracts. Reviews would probably be done differently in the future. However it was agreed that it was important that quality should be continued to be assessed, and that the QAF had given a benchmark to do that.

Ian told the meeting that the restructuring within the Council was still under consultation. At present it seemed Supporting People would sit in the Commission and Improvement section.

BREAK