

HEREFORDSHIRE SUPPORTED HOUSING FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2005

Present: Elizabeth Bantham (Abbeyfield), Cath Baker (Herefordshire Mind), Eddie Clark (Hereford Housing), Denise Clarke (Herefordshire Mind) – Minutes Secretary, Tracey Davis (New Down Projects), Jan Francis (Women’s Aid), Ian Gardner (Herefordshire Council), Linda Grindey (Kemble Care), Carol Hilwyn (SHYPP), Richard Kelly (Herefordshire Lifestyles), Tony Lafford (Salter’s Hill Charity), Janet Morgan (Kemble Care), Diane Rooney (Carr Gomm), Andrew Strong (Herefordshire Mind) – Chairing, Sara Walton (Elgar Housing Association), Jenny Williams (Adult Placement), Sheila Wright (New Down Projects),

Apologies: Sheila Hastie (Railway Housing Association), Nicky Gough (Herefordshire Housing), Dave Hider (SHYPP), Sunita Hopkins (Shelter), Sue Oddie (Advance Housing), Claire Williams (Hanover) and Charlotte Woodward (Women’s Aid).

1. Welcome and Introduction

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting and all introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting on 28th September 2005

Accuracy

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

Matters arising

Strategy Group –The meeting discussed the purpose of the group and whether more providers could be invited. Andrew invited members present to let him know if they wish to attend. Ian had given scheme updates and talked about local performance indicators.

Role of Chair – Andrew told the meeting that no one had volunteered for the role of vice-chair. He proposed that rather than appoint a vice chair he would ask another to chair in his place if he was unable to attend. All were in agreement. He reminded the meeting that another chairperson would be required in the autumn, a role that should be assumed by the vice-chair.

National Strategy –draft document now available for consultation. Some organisations present will feedback to ODPM and regional feedback is likely through the RIG and/or Chair’s forum. Early impressions are that the principles proposed are sound with opportunity for positive dialogue. Sitra take a positive view and doubt whether the redistribution formula will be implemented; if it is the pace of change is likely to be slow and so the effect nullified. Ian recommended the Audit Commission report that had also been published, which, in his view, gives more clarity. He said that Herefordshire Supporting People’s response to the strategy could incorporate responses of providers.

Regional Strategy Meeting – due to take place on 6th December had been postponed.

Item 5 – following Mark Chislett's training session at the last meeting, he had e-mailed Andrew with details of a training opportunity regarding lone working. Andrew undertook to forward this to the members.

3. Herefordshire Update – Ian Gardner

Ian updated the meeting on the review programme. Forty-six had been completed; the remaining 13 were to be completed by 31st March 2005.

Herefordshire Supporting People's updated directory of funded services and providers is on the Council's website. He recommended its user-friendliness.

No decision yet about 'non-recurrent payment' (to reflect inflation) of 3% for 2006-7 on top of this year's.

Providers will continue to receive interim contracts of one-year after satisfactory reviews but SP will consider longer-term contracts in the course of the next 12 months.

Ian explained about the restructuring within the Council. He said that it was under consultation at the moment but likely to be divided as follows:

- 1) Adult Social Care
- 2) Commission and improvement
- 3) Strategic Housing
- 4) Community Services.

He was unsure at present where Supporting People would sit.

He expressed his thanks to all the Providers for their hard work over the last 12 months. He said that next year would be very different but equally as challenging and he looked forward to working with everyone.

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