

**MINUTES**  
**CARE PROVIDERS FORUM**  
6 MAY 2005  
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1  
AT COUNTY HALL

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**PRESENT**

John Clewley (Chair)	Ryde House
Sandy Weller	Head of Service Adults
Dennis O'Hearn	IWHA
Jenny Fuller	Hazlewood House
Sylvia Flower	Cheran House
Janice Gillam	Leonard Cheshire
Jo Parry	Hazlewood House
Paul Smith	Osel Enterprises
Andrew Duckworth	Isle of Wight Housing
Mandy Minshull	Islecare
Gail Brook	Islecare
Lyn Savin	Cheran House
Maria Bino	Wightcare

**APOLOGIES**

Martin Johnson; Virginia Brown; Paul Milward; Steve Harris; Kevin Harrison; Charles Cooke; Daren Perkins; Spencer Wilbey; Bob Marks

**1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, 24 MARCH 2005**

These were approved.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**3. FEES (Part 1 Providers only)**

JC explained the draft letter sent by him to Care Providers with regard to fees, copied to Sandy Weller for information and the response from the Council, with subsequent offers. Also a letter with regard to fees from Mandy Sellers was circulated. This agenda item is to be discussed further in Fees (Part 2) when Sandy Weller attends for the second part of the meeting.

**4. ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY COMMISSIONING (INCLUDING THE STRATEGY 2005 –08)**

JC responded on behalf of LDHA to the Draft Commissioning Strategy.

1. A person centred approach to people with a learning disability and their carers. – *'That people with a learning disability will apply the BILD Quality Network performance management process to services and care providers'.*

Providers wanted to comply with the Valuing People ethos with regards to training, quality assurance and voicing the opinions of service users. The LDDF may be able to buy the BILD tool and roll it out to Care Providers. (A suggestion was that the cost of buying the Quality Assurance Tool could be shared between the Council and

Care Providers). The cost implication should be known to providers in advance of any decision made to this effect.

2. Promotion of Independence and Choice. - *'The commissioner envisages the exercise of choice and independence as a continuing process based on the personal choices of people with a disability. Current information indicates that some 30 – 40% of residential care users would, if given a realistic opportunity, choose to have a home with a tenancy and their care provided in the community. This represents a considerable opportunity for re-investment in community services'*.

a) Providers felt that the 30 – 40% figure gave rise to concern.

b) Details were requested for the figures quoted.

The latest Green Paper encourages residential care users, where possible, to live out in the community.

The Forum accepted that change was inevitable, but stressed their Concerns, for vulnerable service users, and asked that their business interests be considered, and the interests of staff they employed.

3. Direct Payments take-up to be increased

Direct Payments is a key Government target set out in the recent Green Paper. Some points discussed were as follows:

- It is felt that direct payments will put the power of purchase into the consumer's hands.
- An Island wide advocate and employment service will evolve.
- Mencap have innovative ideas for the future support to LD clients to enable them to leave residential care if they so wish.
- Providers expressed concerns with regard to the mechanics of direct payments, however, direct payments are only paid to people when they are independent.
- DP may be paid to people in residential homes in the future.
- A Local Implementation Group has been formed to develop the uptake of direct payments. The LIG would like a representative from this Forum to be elected onto it.

**ACTION: JC to include this item on the Agenda for the next Care Provider Forum.**

11. Modernise Learning Disability Services including Employment, Education, Advocacy and Day Services

- It was felt that valuable work was done by those people with learning disabilities who were employed in businesses.
- Some questions asked were:
  - Are there detailed plans for replacing Day Services? I.e. Employment opportunities.
  - Are local targets set up yet, for 2005 - 2007?
  - Where is funding to come from for modernising and developing advocacy and training?
- With regard to 24 hour care and new working arrangements, providers did not see it as their responsibility to provide a service for times when clients are in day services, or a free transport service to and from day services.

12. Demonstrate the competence of people working in care services  
*'The commissioner will require care providers and other services to demonstrate compliance with national targets by April 2006, and will as required set the bar higher to ensure that the Island is served by a skilled and trained workforce'.*

Concerns were expressed by the Forum that this would result in higher expenditure for them. It was thought that providers may be able to negotiate with the Local Authority with regard to this.

**ACTION: PS to draw up details.**

PS raised the point that 'Compact' (convened by the RCC to include voluntary organisations, the private sector and the Local Authority) is asking that in the future funding negotiations would take place in September or October to allow for staff wage increases to be implemented after April 1<sup>st</sup>. It was suggested that a representative from Compact could be invited to this Forum. **ACTION JC to identify someone from Compact.**

The Forum agreed that it would be in the service user's interests, that an independent advocate be in place to explain options for moving out of residential placements, and to help clients decide what route to take.

It was an aspiration of the Government that as many people as possible should have access to all services and not just 'special services'. Providers understand that clients are being offered choices now and do not want to limit that possibility, but are conscious of their duty of care and are concerned that people in their care are able to make the right choices, and are prepared for life in the outside world. Elderly people can express a wish to stay in their own (residential) homes, but concerns were raised as to the future of such people ultimately, if they moved out and residential homes were closed.

Providers agreed that they must look at ways of moving forward in view of the current Government thinking, and must work with the Local Authority, making use of existing services within the community. The LDDF have set aside funds to help with changes. This money may be available to providers to help them meet the demands of the future.

In conclusion, it was agreed that Care Providers will be able to bring some influence to bear upon the final Commissioning Strategy.

#### **5. PERSON CENTRED PLANNING CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE**

Islecare and Weston Manor have many facilitators trained. (They both facilitate Person Centred Plans for people for whom they have no financial interest). Pat Ready is persuading more people to train as facilitators.

**ACTION: Juliet to invite Pat to a future meeting to talk about PCP.**

SW is hoping to employ a service user in a formal post as a facilitator for Person Centred Plans. The Forum felt that from their perspective, having an independent (unbiased) facilitator to undertake the plans would be desirable.

## **FEES (Part 2 – SW joined the Meeting)**

SW explained that a letter had been sent from herself to JC on 1 April 2005, identifying a commitment of additional money for Learning Disabilities residential services, and explaining the budget for the current financial year (2004/5). The revised allocation is to be £5,351,000. With regard to the payment of commission, this would continue at the current rate, to be reviewed after discussion over the course of this year, to alleviate the impact of withdrawal. (In the letter of 1 April, it had been suggested that commission payments be reduced in 2 stages. 50% with effect from 1 June 2005, and would stop entirely on 1 April 2006).

JC as chairman of the LDHA, responded to that letter on 20 April 2005, accepting the Council's offer, with some small adjustments and requests.

In answer to queries by JC, regarding the offer of a 3% increase for this year impacting on the viability of smaller homes, SW explained that the Council have an efficiency / savings target built into the budget in addition to 24 hour care, day care and a transport commitment, making a higher call on funds impossible. There will be an additional 10,000 people over the age of 65 on the Island over the next 15 years, making a huge impact on resources. There may be some efficiencies made when the Council are working jointly with the Health Authority. However, having mapped what will be needed for people receiving services from the social services and health over the next 5 years, different ways of delivering those services will have to be found.

It was pointed out that Home-owners need to know the scope of wage increases now available to staff.

**ACTION: SW will e-mail JC the exact budget figure.**

The Providers agreed to discuss these proposals away from this Forum.

**ACTION: JC will organise a meeting of the Home-owners on fees, and will respond to SW on their behalf.**

Other matters discussed with SW were as follows:

- A Policy and Procedure steering group for providers
- The quality of provision is currently monitored by the Excellence Sub Group of the LDPB. Providers can obtain feedback from sub-groups through their representative on these groups.
- 'Training trainers' is a model of good practice and may be rolled out to other areas apart from Adult Protection.
- More consistency is needed across all services in quality. Nominations for a best practice group are to be considered to enable quality standards to be agreed. The aim is to include quality standards in contracts.
- A Quality Premium would be paid as an outcome of new quality standards. Volunteers from this Forum and the Older Persons Forum are needed to help to re-set standards.

**ACTION: JC to add this item to the next agenda.**

- Transport must be addressed. Steve Matthews, Transport Manager for the Council is to attend the next meeting of the LDPB to be made aware of concerns.
- The Learning Disability Inspection will take place later this year with inspectors visiting homes. MJ is to identify areas of concern for Home-

owners and the Council, and demonstrate that we are working in partnership. Priorities to address will be:

- A fair cost of care.
- Different ways of working - ie a consolidation of, people in residential care, day services and transport, using local services.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

AD is to feedback any relevant information from this Forum to the Adult Protection Committee.

**7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **17 June 2005 at 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm, and held at the Quay Arts Centre on Newport Quay.**

MJ/JG/h/LDPB/Providers Minutes of 06.05.05.