

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report

**Name of project:**

Family Carers Gateway

Project Lead:

Chris Lau, Director

The Carers' Centre for Brighton and Hove

Community Base,

Queens Road

Brighton

BN1 3XG

01273 234045

Chris.lau@thecarerscentre.org

Sub Group overseeing project:

Chairs Planning Group - Partnership with Families

Project Targets from original bid:

- Up to 4 Carers Needs Assessments / Reviews per week will be completed
- By the end of the project, a carers self-assessment scheme will be in place
- Stronger links with the Community Learning Disability Team will lead to more joint work and meetings to discuss how best to support carers.
- More carers will access Carers Assessments / Reviews.
- Carers will be better supported after needs assessments/reviews
- The project will make a direct contribution to the Council in offering Direct Payments and Individual Budgets to Carers.
- Written reports will be sent to the Partnership Board for further discussion on developing appropriate initiatives and projects, which will benefit carers.

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How the project will do this work:

The Carers Centre has employed a part-time Family Carers Assessment Worker, Rich Askew who works three days per week. Rich has been able to build on the positive working relationships that already exist between the Carers Centre and the Community Learning Disability Team, particularly the CLDT Care Manager for Carers.

Rich has been able to draw on knowledge and expertise within the Carers' Centre and the Community Learning Disability Team, as well as his own knowledge and experience, to plan positive outcomes for carers. This includes Direct Payments in the form of Carers Grants.

Rich has received cases almost exclusively from the Community Learning Disability Team (two carers, a couple, referred themselves directly to the Carers Centre). Regular allocation meetings have now been established with the CLDT Care Manager for Carers.

How much 2009/10 LDDF money the project gets:

£16,000 (+ £2,000 from Carer's Grant budget)

Name of person completing this report:

Richard Askew

What the project has done in August through November 2009:

Rich Askew has been employed by the Carers Centre for Brighton and Hove as Family Carers Assessment Worker, he started on 10th August 2009 working 21 hours a week. Rich's role is to carry out Carers' Reviews on behalf of the **Community Learning Disability Team**.

It can be difficult being a carer, sometimes ...



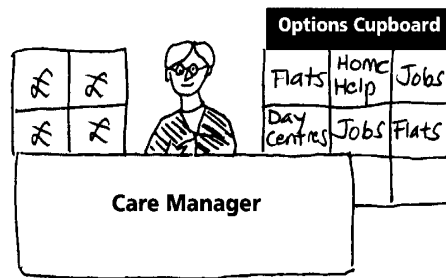
... but by reviewing **carers' needs** and **planning** the right kind of **support**, we can make sure carers are well supported.



Before starting his review work Rich had an **induction** to find out what **services** are available locally for **carers** and for the **people they care for**.

This included visits to day centres for adults with learning disabilities, carers groups, and meetings with community and voluntary organisations.

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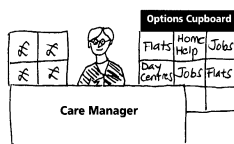


Rich also spent time getting to know the **Community Learning Disability Team...**

... and finding out how they help adults with learning disabilities.

Rich has a regularly monthly allocation meeting with the Care Manager for Carers at the Community Learning Disability Team.

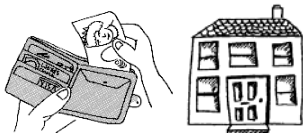
Rich has completed **14 Carers Reviews** since his induction ended, with a range of different outcomes for the carers he has helped.



Rich has liaised with the Community Learning Disability Team on behalf of 5 carers to explore additional support for the person who is cared for.



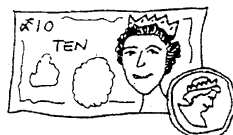
2 carers have been supported to increase their income because they weren't getting all the benefits they were entitled to.



3 carers have received legal advice through the Carers Centre to secure the long-term financial security of the people they care for.



7 Emergency Back-Up Plans are being registered to bring peace of mind and to ensure support will be in place if the carer is involved in an unexpected emergency.

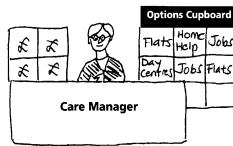


3 Direct Payments (in the form of Carers Grants) are being considered.



5 carers have been given information and advice on a range of issues, including help with paying bills and home improvements, managing challenging behaviour, and options for the future.

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5 carers have been caring for more than one person and have been given information and advice about support for the other people they care for.



4 carers have been given information and advice about counselling services that are available.

As with most new projects, there have been a few problems to iron out and this has taken up some time. Taking this into account, together with training, annual leave and unexpected illness, Rich has been completing around two reviews each week, during a three day working week. A process flowchart is being drawn up in consultation with the Carers' Development Manager and the CLDT to ensure smooth pathways for the work and speedier outcomes for carers. Once this has been achieved it is likely that there will be an increase in the number of reviews carried out on a weekly basis.

In the next stage of the project we will be developing ways of obtaining feedback from carers about their experiences of the review process and outcomes. Carers who are involved through the Carers' Link work will be consulted regarding the design of a feedback form for this purpose.

The project is also working with the CLDT and carers' leads in the Council regarding self assessment and will feed back on progress in the next monitoring report.