



A Place to Live **Minutes**

Date: 9th June 2009

Time: 10-11 am

Venue: Room 1, 2nd Floor Bartholomew House

Present: Mark Hendriks, Natalya Garzon, Lou Aish, Sue Garner – Ford, Sarah Crowe (notes)

Apologies: Diana Bernhardt, Andy Staniford, Steve Hook, Aideen Jones, Stephen Wraige

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Minutes and Matters Arising
 - 2.1 Mark fed back about the HomeBuy scheme for Shared Ownership and that it seemed unlikely to be an easy option for most people with LD due to the criteria. It may still be worth publicising the option, to allow people to explore it.
 - 2.2 SH to email NG eligibility leaflet
 - 2.3 Aideen to confirm around the link from brochure to Southdown website.
 - 2.4 Natalya clarified in relation to repairs, Homemove and bidding
 - 2.5 Mark updated the group and clarified regarding sheltered housing referrals and the changes to a needs based assessment process from September
3. Update from Partnership Board
 - 3.1 Key actions from the last partnership board in May discussed.
 - 3.2 The Partnership board is changing the way it agrees to the Learning Disability Development fund and allocation of monies.

From now on the Partnership Board does not agree funds however it still needs to be informed of requests.

- 3.3 Jean Collins a regional advisor of valuing people support team carried out a presentation and discussed her work.
- 3.4 Wellington Road was also discussed and some discussion still to take place in relation to agreement of the proposal.
- 3.5 Mark mentioned due to changes of his work day he will no longer be able to attend the Partnership Board and volunteers were asked to represent from this group. Natalya and Lou both happy to attend on a rota. Next Meeting 20th July and Natalya and Lou to arrange between them.

4. Update from Making It Happen Group workplan

- 4.1 Mark advised that the work plan has now been complete and the group will look to resolve any issues not formalised at sub group level. The group will also make recommendations to the Partnership Board. Work plan presented by Mark.
- 4.2 The A Place to Live work is split into 3 main strands:
- 4.3 1. Improving information e.g. the booklet, accessible leaflets, useful links on the website, info events
- 4.4 2. Ensuring equality of access e.g. assessments of Choice Based Lettings, Allocations and other routes to housing options
- 4.5 3. Partnership Working e.g. learning from other authorities and attending regional and national housing events

5. Housing Options Update/Housing Booklet

5.1 Natalya advised that she had altered the booklet as per the last meeting. Extra care had been added and also a glossary.

5.2 Mark suggested that the booklet be emailed out to care managers and providers to have their input of the draft copy. Agreed that the booklet would be divided up and sent on to different groups for their input and to also check accuracy. This to be ready for event in September. Decided on timescales and the final booklet to be sent to Steve's team to be made into an easy read version. Once complete will be issued to Speakout for comment.

5.3 Mark also suggested that in the useful contacts section to include what the contact does. I.e. Community Learning Disability Team – assessments etc.

6. Homelessness prevention service

6.1 Mark advised that there is £42k available of Supporting People money available to use a preventative service for people with Learning Disabilities who are not meeting housing criteria. Some feedback received from hostels that some clients have presented as having mild Learning Disabilities, much of this has come from anecdotal reports. Mark asked for any thoughts how needs mapping could be carried out. Mark advised that this money will be put towards commissioning for a support service.

Agreed that Natalya will speak to young people's team to find out details around breakdown

Agreed Natalya to meet with managers and key workers of hostels and Carr Gomm

Agreed Mark to contact the Carers Centre and Amaze.

Some discussion over dual diagnosis and people going into the mental health pathway who have learning disabilities.

Mark and Natalya to meet and discuss what questions to ask as per above proposed meetings.

7. Event Planning

7.1 Mark discussed upcoming events and at the next Learning Disability Provider Forum in September. Shaun Thurston will discuss sheltered housing and Natalya was asked to also attend and discuss roles and a carry out a presentation on case studies. Mark requested some other suggestions. **NB date – Sept 2nd 10-12**

7.2 Lou suggested some information from providers around move on and also allowing them the confidence for service users to do so.

7.3 Lou also discussed how providers carry out reviews and the inclusion of housing which should be now a requirement of Person Centred Plans. Mark to co ordinate good scenarios and case studies for reviews.

Mark may also invite a person with a Learning Disability to attend. The idea is to clarify the process, options and who people can speak to about access to housing. Please email Mark with any suggestions

8. Work Plan

Already covered

9. Links for Brightpart – suggestions

Mark asked for suggestions of what links could be added to the brightpart website to help direct people to the correct information. This is to be added to the A Place to Live part of the website. Natalya suggested the Job Centre, Mencap, In Touch which also include details of Individualised Budgets and Shelter websites and Sue suggested Government Direct. Also some details on the Brighton and Hove council website which can be useful. The Housing Options leaflet will also be added once completed and possibly the tenancy agreement once it has also been finalised. Mark to consider whether BHT and Southdown links could be added. Sue also mentioned a portal which Adult Social Care are completing.

10. LDDF funding

Already covered.

MH to draft report to Partnership Board around costs of housing options leaflet. This will be advertised on the Brightpart website for bids to be issued.

11. AOB and Next meetings:

None

14th Aug - 10-12 - Room 1 Barts House

9th October - 10-12 Room 1 Barts House

11th Dec 10-12 Room 1 Barts House