

20 JUL 1997

GWRAG
Community Care Meeting
25 June 1997
Stockport Town Hall

Present

Janice Armstrong	Trafford MBC
Caroline Bennett	Withington CAB
Guy Biddles	Manchester Royal Infirmary
Laura Downey	Salford Anti-Poverty Unit
Ann Gaughan (chair)	Stockport MBC
Mike Hughes	Salford Anti-Poverty Unit
Gareth Hughes	Ashton CAB
Steven Hutchinson	Atherton CAB
John Jones	Rochdale MBC
Martin Rathfelder	Manchester Advice
Haydn Riley	Bolton Welfare Rights Service
Anne Roberts	Wigan Welfare Rights
Refat Taj	Eccles CAB
Jean Welch	Ellesmere Port CAB
Don Williams	Bury MBC

Apologies

Mike Kirk	Ladywell Hospital
Sue Crutchley	Manchester Advice
Pat Knight	Hazel Grove CAB

Ann Gaughan explained that at the last meeting of GMWRAG it was felt that a sub-group was needed of those who work in Community Care. This meeting is primarily to decide what is needed at these meetings and how to organise them.

Many areas of concern were identified;

- conflict of interest : those working for the Local Authority, particularly Social Services. Even those working for CABx, as posts are Local Authority funded . Wigan WRU is restricted in what advice can be given because they work for Social Services.
- residential care Disability Living Allowance / Attendance Allowance.
- HB and supported tenancies

- adult placements(ie fostered out) how do you go down the benefit route? What is the status of where you live? If the health service pay for your care is it a hospital? Dowry arrangements - if the dowry is linked to the existence of the person, this is different to paying Social Services for care no matter how many people need this service.
- Gloucester and Sefton. The High Court decision in Gloucester which has been used in Sefton. The procedure for needs assessment was established: the first stage should be a needs assessment. The second stage should be a resources assessment. In Sefton, not only the resources of the Local Authority were looked at, but the clients' resources were also taken into account.
- the problem of those who are assessed as needing services but who are not getting them , especially those who receive Attendance Allowance, as they are not a priority.
- Appointees - conflict of interest when approached by sons / daughters of people in residential care
- Who should complete SP1s? The Social Worker or the home? People are losing money when there is a delay. The Local Authority actually loses the money which means there are fewer places for others. One suggestion - write to the BA saying that this person is now in residential care - the BA will complete the form and if it's not done correctly it is the BA fault. This system was used in Rochdale and used to work well but it was stopped because of the risk of fraud.

Training Needs

- residential care
- continuing care
- adult placements (ie adult fostering)

Agreed that it would be useful to have a presentation on Community Care which could be widely advertised - suggestion of Pauline Thompson.

Martin suggested having a conference to talk about the future of funding and boundaries within Social Services. To invite the Partners Group (ex-Housing Assn, who undertake the management of property, consultants for Health care / Social Services) along with Social Services Managers and Housing Managers. Suggestion of Community Health Council as host, contact: Glenys Siddall. Agreed that a smaller group should meet to discuss this and put forward a proposal to this group. The smaller group to consist of Carolyn, Ann, John, and Martin.

In early October there is to be a legal framework session by Stephen Cragg (National Carers Association Barrister) - details to be circulated.

The Family Welfare Association may provide training. To ask GMWRAG for funds. Ann will contact Ashley Wood to ask about having a half-day on assessment. Agreed that Social Workers should be invited to this.

Next Meeting

Agreed to have these meetings approximately every 6 weeks. Next one:

6 August 1997 Stockport Town Hall 2pm, Committee Room 3.

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