

Learning Disabilities Network 24th April 2008

Present: Fay Heys - Priory Project

Richard Morgan - Down's Syndrome Association

Ann Wood - Opportunity Housing Trust

Felicity Pritchard - carer

Gwyneth Woolley - carer

Paul Phillips - Keysteps/Frame

Lyndsay Bone - Circles

Richard Springett - Adult Placement Scheme

Dave Brockway - carer, Pembrokeshire Mencap

Martin Goodall - Haverfordwest Hawks

Sally Davies - PAVS (minutes)

Sally started off by giving a background to the LD network - it has been some time since the group last met but it has been reconvened and will meet twice a year, to coincide with the network events. The next LD network will be at the October network event. Need to ensure that more carers of adults with learning disabilities are invited - PAVS to do.

The meeting started with a presentation by Ann Wood, Opportunity Housing Trust (OHT) who gave details of the background of OHT. It was formed in 1985 under South Glamorgan response to All Wales Strategy for People with Mental Handicap and is a registered charity. It offers a range of support to people with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders, physical disability, mental health. It currently has 260+ service users adults and children, 90+ respite users 900+ staff covering 6 Local Authority Areas in Wales. It is managed by a Board of Trustees over half of which are parents. They support people through ILF and Direct Payments and referrals are made through the CTLD. Much of the work involves finding meaningful daytime activities for their tenants, many of whom are doing either voluntary or paid work. This year they are going to further develop their Person centred Planning and will be setting up a self-advocacy group for their tenants in conjunction with Pembrokeshire Advocacy. They also want to ensure that social housing is improved in Pembrokeshire. For more information about OHT contact them on 01437 774430.

The next presentation was by Richard Springitt from the Adult Placement Scheme (APS). The West Wales APS which covers

Pembrokeshire, Carmarthen and Ceredigion, was set up in September 2006. They have been recruiting carers in Pembrokeshire to provide placements to adults with learning disabilities and now have 28 carers, 5 of whom provide long-term placements and the others mainly respite. They have 20 respite vacancies at the moment and each can provide an individually tailored plan to the people who come and stay with them. Respite with APS can be like going on holiday as it is living in an ordinary family home.

Referrals can be made directly to the APS or via a care manager and can be paid for by direct payments. The current cost of an overnight stay is £49 a night.

AP Carers go through a 3 - 6 month assessment process with a minimum of 6 visits. All people over 16 in the household are police checked and references are taken up on the main carers. The assessment is presented to an independent panel who decide whether to approve or not.

For more information about the APS or to make a referral, please contact them on 01267 224200.

There was then some feedback about the LD Strategy group which has recently been chaired by Jon Skone, Director of Social Care and Housing. He recently presented a paper to the group which covered the latest LD policies and looked at the way forward for the group. There was also a broad financial breakdown of how funding is allocated.

The LD network group then discussed what issues they wanted to raise at the next LD Strategy group - Lindsay Bone to take forward. They are -

1. It has been good to see the funding breakdown but would also like to see the Business Plan and see how it compares with other local authorities across Wales (Pemb used to be the lowest spend per person with LD - is this still the case?)
2. There is an issue of foster carers moving into the APS as they need at least a year's notice to ensure a smooth transition. People would like to see the transition protocol for information.
3. People would like to see an updated CTLD team plan with names of current staff members and also an updated list of members of the LD Strategy Group.
4. Some people had heard that there are no further referrals for Supported Housing. Could some clarity be given re this?

Date of next meeting: October 2008.