

Minutes

Homes 4 Us
Monday 23rd February 5pm – 7pm
Tenant Resource Centre, Hounds Gate



PRESENT:

Clive Thorpe, Sue Stevenson, Linford Stevens, Jenny Grant, Alan Darby, Catherine Shenton, Valerie Schneider, Ruth Haywood,

Officers: Sue O' Connor NCH, Sue Taylor NCH,

Guest Speaker: Laura Marano LINK

Apologies:

Liz Needham, Loveleen Labana, Lynn Mitchell,

| ACTION

1.0 Welcome & Apologies

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The amendment requested at 2.5 was acknowledged.
Page 3 – Denewood Centre has been booked other venues were approached but no –one came forward with a quote.
Age Concern will be attending the conference on April 25th.

3.0 Laura Marano – Nottingham City Local Involvement Network (LINK)

- The Local Involvement Network was set up in April 2008 following the report by Lord Dray
- It is made up of 150 local involvement networks spread across the UK each network consists of individuals and local groups.
- Nottingham City Council nominated the Carers Federation to be the support for the LINK locally
- The support they give them includes promotion, administration and budgeting
- A temporary steering group has been formed
- Some of the local groups who are represented are the Elders Forum, the Alzhiemers Association and the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

- LINK combines the voluntary sector with professionals and service users.
- The network has been up and running since July 2008
- It enables local individuals to shape how the services are run
- They make recommendations to the service providers who then have to respond and have a scoring system in place to enable them to prioritise issues which arise
- These recommendations can include anything from extending GP practices opening hours to the kind of food they serve in Care homes
- They concentrate on tangible issues that can be resolved
- LINK has a very active Communications Group
- Its highest level of participation is the Steering Group
- The next step is a planned election for the members of the steering group
- The LINK project is very similar to the Citizens Health Panel but is more independent and looks at ways services are lacking especially with the cuts in Social Services.

The following question was asked;

Question; Access for Young Carers – its future seems to be in doubt will the project give it a more secure future?

Answer; No it is a completely separate organisation but AYC seems quite secure at the moment

Laura Marano then gave out some packs and suggested that if anyone is interested then they should fill the form which is in it, then they will receive updates every two months. The group were told that they could join as a representative of Homes 4 Us or as an individual.

The Chair asked if they would like to promote LINK at the Homes 4 Us Conference and they also agreed to promoted the Homes 4 Us Forum and requested a Constitution and terms of reference and a Code of Conduct.

SO

Homes 4 Us has recently had a speaker who was a professional in Mental Health Services who has identified gaps between Mental Health and Housing services. So far there has been one meeting of officers who are going to meet again in March to look at membership and maybe LINK could feed into this. The hair thanked Laura Marano and her colleague and invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting, they gave their apologies and thanked the Chair as they were going on to another event.

4.0 Homes 4 Us Conference Update

The Denewood centre is now booked at a cost of £530 for the day the cost includes the use of the hall, two labs, and side rooms.

- Homes 4 Us will be providing the tea coffee etc. with Guides and Scouts booked to take care of parking making refreshments and various

other tasks.

- There will be a Caretaker on site and two radios will be available to use.
- Clive is meeting with the Contractors next week to see what they are going to provide.
- The kitchen units are to be sent over on Friday so they can be displayed
- Unfortunately it was not possible to get a Disability Employment advisor to work on a Saturday
- Marketing were approached last week
- Sue Taylor asked for the full Tenant and Leaseholder Involvement Team to be involved
- The NHS no smoking people have agreed to attend
- Chris Langstaff needs to be invited and provided with the context of the Conference.
- Val Schneider and Jenny Grant went on Radio Kesmet and the station will continue promoting the conference until the 25th April.
- Catherine Shenton agreed to arrange a workshop on the 'Hidden Illness' with Robin Johnson the Mental Health specialist who spoke at the December meeting.
- Tony Dawson from the Aids and Renewals group has agreed to attend
- Next major task is to sit down with Martin Valentine and work out a programme of promotion for the Conference
- Other ideas for people/organisations to invite;
 - Whizz Kids who provide wheel chairs for disabled children
 - The Nottingham Deaf Society
 - A school disability officer to provide information on their work

CT

SO

CS

There is eight weeks to go until the conference so it should be able to go in two editions of the NCH newsletter, Clive will be discussing this and posters and general publicity with Martin Valentine next week and also to discuss the audience which needs to be targeted.

Sue O'Connor is to draw up a Conference Plan

SO

5.0 Any Other Business

Mental Health and Housing group;

At the same time that issues were being raised at the meeting concerning Mental Health and Housing Services on December 8th, Gary Harvey from Housing Aid contacted Sue Lomax to discuss issues concerning why the services fail when it involves Mental Health and Housing. He was already in contact with Service Managers and PCT and there was a small group of people who met to share procedures on when people with support needs apply for

housing.

There is a second meeting taking place at the end of March where there will be a proposal to include a customer on the panel to feed back to Homes 4 Us and also they will be looking to expand the panels remit to include estate management.

It was suggested that two members of Homes 4 Us be proposed so that if one is absent the other can still attend the meeting and give the feedback.

A query was raised over the sub group that was proposed at the December meeting as this was supposed to be specifically to look at issues surrounding Mental Health and tenant led. This proposal is to go ahead, as they will also be able to monitor the group initiated by Gary Harvey and Sue Lomax and ensure that issues that arise with NCH tenants are brought to their attention.

Chris Langstaff took a list of names of people from the meeting in December who wanted to be part of the sub group, this is not available so SO is to write to all those who attended and ask for those people to submit their names again.

SO

There was some disagreement about having sub groups but then it was agreed that Homes 4 Us would act as an umbrella for any sub groups that are developed.

Emergency meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2009

At the emergency meeting it was agreed that the Vice Chair should resign or be excluded. ST is to send the person a letter and after the content is agreed by members.

There was some disagreement over the way the election of the interim Vice Chair was elected and after serious discussion it was agreed however that the decision of Jenny Grant to act as interim Vice Chair should stand. Before the AGM which is to be held at the conference, requests for people to stand for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair will be sent out to all members, then all those nominated will be included in a secret ballot at that AGM.

SO

Future Meeting

It was asked if stress in the workplace could be included in the remit of the sub group. Sue Taylor stated that there were already mechanisms in place for dealing with stress at work and if the group would agree then a member of the HR team could attend a future meeting and explain the way this is dealt with. It was agreed that Homes 4 Us sub group should not be involved with the workforce.

The meeting then closed.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 9th March
12.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m.

Board Room at Hounds Gate: