

## Minutes of Meeting

### Supporting People Liaison Group

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011

#### Attendees:

Pam Toms	Strategy & Supporting People Manager
Georgia Blackmore	Supporting People Contract Officer
Richard Thomas	Care & Repair, Cardiff & Vale
Karen Berry	Taff Housing Association
Jennifer Garraway	Hafod Care
Sandra Perkes	Genesis 2 Development Officer

#### Apologies:

Paul Baker	Gwalia Care & Support
Chris Rutson	United Welsh Housing Association
Sarah O'Keefe	Wales & West Housing Association
Janice Bell	Taff Housing Association

#### Minutes:

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed apart from one error. Page 2 Rent Ploy should have read Remploy.

#### **Presentation - Sandra Perkes – Genesis 2 Development Officer**

Sandra gave a presentation on the Genesis 2 Project. This is a Wales wide initiative funded through the European Social Fund and the Welsh Government.

Genesis aims to overcome barriers encountered by people wanting to return to work, training and voluntary work, these could be low self esteem/confidence, childcare or transport issues.

Genesis works with lone parents and females throughout the Vale of Glamorgan who are on Income Support. People who receive Job Seekers Allowance (or women whose partners make a joint claim for JSA) would not qualify for assistance as they will receive assistance from the Back to Work Programme – please see attached eligibility criteria.

The team consists of Sandra and Rhian who is an admin assistant and they are based in the Old Town Hall, Kings Square.

Every Tuesday morning Genesis holds a coffee and confidence session in Barry Library with tutors available to chat to.

Referrals can be made by telephone or the attached referral form. They can be self referrals or referrals from other agencies.

The project has been running since January 2010 and they have recently passed their 100<sup>th</sup> participant.

(Please see attached presentation, referral form and information).

For more information e-mail: [sperkes@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:sperkes@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)  
or ring: 01446 709221 / 07971 238915.

### **Presentation – Richard Thomas – Care & Repair**

Richard explained that Care & Repair assist older people who are owner occupiers or privately renting to repair/maintain their homes from changing a washer on a tap to assistance with extensions etc. They are predominately funded by the Welsh Government and also receive funding from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

There are two parts to this service:

1 Caseworkers on receipt of a referral will visit the client concerned and develop a package of support around their issues. They will develop a schedule of works and arrange for contractors/businesses that are known to Care & Repair to provide quotes.

Care & Repair hold a list of contractors and local business that they have worked with and they monitor this list. They are not able to distribute the list but can advise clients of contractors/businesses and they will follow up this advice with written confirmation and additional advice via a letter.

Assessments are also carried out such as a Healthy Homes Check and income check.

If clients can afford to pay for the works they do, however the casework team can apply for funding to assist with works for those clients who cannot.

2 There are 3 handy people employed who cover small works such as hand rails, washers etc. There is no fee for this service, however they may ask for contribution towards materials.

Care & Repair are non-profit making and all of the team have had enhanced CRB checks.

They see approximately 2000 people a year within the Vale of Glamorgan.

For more information on Care & Repair please e-mail:

[care&repair@newydd.co.uk](mailto:care&repair@newydd.co.uk)

or call 01446 704308

Question – PT asked the age Care & Repair class as an older person. RT advised they are able to assist between the ages of 60-74, however they predominately assist people aged 75 years and over.

Question – GB asked if there is assistance with gardening and the repair of white goods. RT advised that the handypersons unfortunately do not assist with gardening, but they would be able to advise of other gardening services available. They also do not deal with electrical appliances.

### **Training Opportunities or Feedback**

PT explained that the Housing Department within the Vale of Glamorgan Council had recently received Learning Disability Training that was led by

Vale People First and the Parents Federation. Service users from Vale People First led the morning session which was very well conducted and very interesting and a parent from the Parents Federation gave the afternoon session. Staff explained that it was a really interesting day, and that being able to hear experiences from the service user and parent/carer side of things was very insightful.

PT explained that this is being rolled out to all Housing Departments of the 22 Welsh Local Authorities as a Welsh Government initiative. However, if providers were interested in this training then they should contact the Parents Federation to see if it is available for them.

GB explained that the Housing Department had also recently received Debt Awareness Training by Money Saviour, contact details:

Sorcha Kennedy, 07854 079736 [sorcha@moneysaviour.org.uk](mailto:sorcha@moneysaviour.org.uk)

The training was very informative with regards to debt awareness and covered topics such as income, budgeting, income maximisation, expenditure reduction, priority + non priority expenses, Consumer Credit Act debts & types of credit, liability, dealing with bills, court process, debt management, bankruptcy, DRO, IVA/Court remedies.

Karen Berry from Taff explained how they had recently received Strengthening Families training from Scope which was based primarily around disabled children and was interesting.

Contact details:

Lindsey Caplan

Face 2 Face, Scope Response National Service Development Manager

0151 4283121

07734734418

## **Questions**

None

## **Suggestions for Future Meetings**

GB will chase the Back to Work Programme to attend a SPLG in the future.

KB advised that Newydd now have Life School Coaches in post in order to build confidence and getting tenants back into work. GB to see if they would like to attend a SPLG in the future.

Please can any suggestions for future meetings be forwarded to [gblackmore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:gblackmore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

## **AOB**

There is an Outcomes Learning Exchange Event being held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at the All Nations Centre, Sachville Avenue, Heath, Cardiff 10:30am. If anyone would like to attend please can they email

[gblackmore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:gblackmore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

**Chair of next meeting, date and time.**

Gary Brown, Llamau, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 @ 2.00pm in Committee Room 2.

**NB** Please note earlier start time.