

MINUTES OF MEETING

SUPPORTING PLEOPE LIAISON GROUP MEETING

Thursday 23rd June 2011

Attendees:

Sarah O’Keeffe (Chair)	Wales and West Housing Association
Pam Toms	Vale of Glamorgan Strategy & Supporting People Manager
Donna Clitheroe	Supporting People Contract Officer
Irene Thomas	Supporting People Project Support Officer
Karen Baker	Innovate Trust
Jane Collins	Innovate Trust
Jan Booker	Home Access
Dawn Sullivan	Reach
Sally Chandler	Reach
David Morris	Flying Start
Janice Bell	Taff Housing
Karen Berry	Taff Housing
Lee Powell	The Wallich
Jennifer Garroway	Hafod Care
Gary Brown	Llamau
Paul Thomas	Llamau
Audrey Broome	Hafod Care
Christine Evans	United Welsh Housing Association
Kaniz Maleckin	Newydd Housing Association
Lisa Doe	Vale of Glamorgan Homelessness Manager
Bronwen Blake-Smith	Housing Strategy Assistant
Julie Jones	Gofal
Erica Reid	Gwalia Care & Support
Paul Baker	Gwalia Care & support
Jayne Dingle	Job Centre Plus
Gareth Newbury	Solas
Gurjit Kaur	Atal Y Fro
Federico Podeschi	LGBT Excellence Centre
Alicja Zalesinka	Race Equality First
Jez Goddard	Can Do Lettings
Yvette Tyndell	Hafod Care

Apologies:

Joanne Carter	Newydd Housing Association
Kay Quinn	Atal Y Fro
John Porter	Older People Strategy Co-ordinator
Amber Constant	Flying Start
Mark Davies	Children & Young People’s Partnership Manager VOGC
Nick Taylor	Solas
Dawn Bevan	Solas

Minutes:

There were no objections to the last minutes. However, if anyone has any comments, please contact the Supporting People Team on tel; 01446 709793 or email: supportingpeopleteam@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Matters Arising from the last meeting

Stock Transfer -PT informed the group that following the Ballot, there was a negative vote. This means that there is less money available to upgrade properties to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. There is no money for environmental issues on estates and works will not be completed as quickly.

Hostel refurbishment – This has been delayed due to some incomplete works and has had a huge impact on the Homeless Services. However, clients are returning to the hostel in a staggered approach.

Rent Ploy – Following the presentation at the last meeting, it has been agreed that the Council can tap into the service. Anyone requiring more information, please contact the Supporting People Team.

Homeswapper – It has been agreed that the Supporting People Team will receive a weekly list of applicants which will be checked against their database. Support Providers will be informed if any of their clients are registered.

New Contracts – Still on target and arrangements made for staff to TUPE across to new Providers. Every effort is being made to keep existing clients with their support workers.

Presentation - Federico Podeschi – LGBT Excellence Centre

Federico gave a presentation on the excellence centre and the aims of the service. Federico explained that organisations can achieve the 'Rainbow Mark', which is an equality mark sponsored by the Welsh Assembly government. It is a signifier of good practice, commitment and knowledge of the specific needs, issues and barriers facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. **(Presentation will be forwarded once received).**

For more information on LGBT, e-mail: www.lgbtec.org.uk or ring: 0800 023 2201.

Presentation – Alicja Zalesinka – Race Equality First

Alicja gave a presentation to the group on delivering services to people with protected characteristics and the range of services available to people and organisations. Alicja gave an update on the Equality Act 2010. **(Please see attached presentation).**

For more information on Race Equality First please e-mail: alicja.zalesinka@raceequalityfirst.org.uk

Presentation – Jayne Dingle Job Centre Plus – Community 10000

Jayne Dingle gave a presentation to the group about the services Job Centre Plus offer to clients. She explained that the volunteering scheme was launched in 2007 and is an opportunity for all employees to volunteer their services using their knowledge, experience and skills to participate in any activity which in some way benefits the customers and/or the organisations that support them.

Jayne informed the group that in 2010 – 2011, there were over 6,500 days volunteered with 400 external organisations with the Department. Jayne explained that it helps improve Service User moral and is an opportunity to build long term partnership with DWP. **(Please see attached presentation). For more information on Job Centre Plus – Community 10000, please e-mail: jayne.dingle@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 02920 804103.**

Question – Chris Evans, United Welsh Housing Association.
Chris asked if the organisation is happy to work alongside service users in a hostel, where they are able to learn new skills etc?

Jayne advised that the hostel is a perfect service work alongside. She also informed the group that the volunteers are not CRB checked as they are treated as irregular volunteers and do not work alone.

Presentation – Jez Goddard – Cando Lettings.

Jez explained to the group that Cando Lettings was set up five years ago as the first social lettings agency. They receive financial support from Council and Welsh Government. Jez advised the group of the services for tenants and the packages available to Landlords, including the rents charged and housing benefit allowances. Cando Lettings Tenants are also able to access housing related support. **(Please see attached presentation). For more information on Cando Lettings, please e-mail: www.candolettings.co.uk or telephone 02920 434434.**

Question – David Morris, Flying Start enquired how many Cando properties are let in the Vale of Glamorgan area.

Jez advised there are currently 11 properties rented through the scheme.

Question - Erica Reed, Gwalia Care and support asked what is the minimum term the property is let for and if the agency is will look for alternative accommodation for a tenant should the landlord want the property back?

Jez advised that it is currently six months but Cando Lettings are looking to sign with Landlords for 5 years. If the Landlord requires the property back we Cando Lettings require 6 months notice and in this time they will search for alternative accommodation for the tenant.

Training Opportunities or Feedback

None.

Questions

None.

Suggestions for Future Meetings

None.

AOB

Pam informed the group that INAM's can now be completed on line. They can be accessed via the Vale of Glamorgan Website.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk The forms can be found under Public Sector Housing/Supporting People.

Chair of next meeting, date and time.

Gary Brown, Llamau, Tuesday 20th September 2011 @ 2.30pm in Committee Room 2.