

SP Support Group 18/09/08

Minutes

In Attendance

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| M Christy | NIFHA (Minutes / Chair) |
| Lucy Campfield | Triangle HA |
| Alan Crilly | Triangle HA |
| Eileen Dealey | Triangle HA |
| Rosemary Hillier | Fold HA |
| Sharon Hyndman | BIH |
| Niamh Quinn | Clanmil HA |
| Barbara Scott | Habinteg HA |

Apologies

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|-----------------|--------------|
| Helen Colville | Trinity HA |
| Chris Symington | Open Door HA |

SP Outcomes - Group Discussion to Explore Views of Housing Associations

Malcolm to add any relevant info relating to this session to the NIFHA website

Malcolm circulated a briefing paper on supported housing outcomes management.

The discussion started with presentations by Lucy Campfield and Eileen Dealey from Triangle HA who outlined work they have been doing to develop an outcomes management tool for Triangle's supported housing services.

There followed a summary of the CLG Outcomes model. This model has 5 key outcomes, each of which has a sub-set of specific, tangible supplementary indicators.

This was followed by a SWOT analysis on outcomes management for supported housing services to get a Housing Association perspective on the issue.

The workshop ended with key recommendations from the group for an outcomes management system. Malcolm to summarise these recommendations and forward to SP.

The group thanked Triangle staff for generously sharing best practice.

Last Minutes

SP Payment Periods

SP and HB payment periods are slightly out of sync. This has happened because HB treated last year as a 53-week year, but SP treated it as a 52-week year. However this is a technical accounting issue, and has not caused any SP payments to be missed.

SP Underspend 07/08

SP has stated that any underspend last year was non-recurrent, and therefore could not be allocated to organisations' recurring commissions.

The minutes were approved.

Access NI – Temporary Arrangements

Temporary emergency arrangements to facilitate employment in certain areas of health and social care within strictly defined parameters, pending receipt of enhanced criminal record disclosure certificates requested from AccessNI have been introduced.

They will be terminated at a date appointed by the Department. It is intended that these measures will not extend beyond the end of 2008. Following termination of the temporary arrangements, existing legislative and policy requirements in this area will resume with immediate effect.

Full details of the arrangements may be read via the SP page on the NIFHA website

One Association reported that an exception to the temporary arrangements applies if the person has worked outside NI.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups

Vetting and Barring Scheme – Free Information Sessions

The new Vetting & Barring Scheme, established under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups legislation, will be fully operational from 12 October 2009.

In order to prepare employers, organisations, regulatory bodies and workers to undertake their responsibilities and requirements under the new scheme, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has commissioned the Volunteer Development Agency (VDA) to deliver a series of Information Sessions between October 2008 and October 2009.

There will be a session specifically for the social housing sector on 03 December 2008

Book online at www.volunteering-ni.org or contact: Julie-Ann Asheat VDA on 028 9081 8316 or julie-ann@volunteering-ni.org

NI Support Benchmarks

The official launch of NI Support benchmarks Project will take place on 02 October 2008 at the Tullyglass Hotel in Ballymena.

This service and event is free of charge to providers this year.

This project is being funded by SP this year. However they will not be privy to service or organisation-specific data.

Book online at www.nifha.org or, if you have any difficulty with online bookings contact Margaret or Maeve at NIFHA on 028 9023 0446.

The consultants who have developed and run the service in England over the past 4 years will attend the launch to answer all questions relating to the service.

New SP Website

There is a new SP website which is part of the new corporate NIHE website - http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/www_home/supporting_people-3.htm

SP Contacts Details

Malcolm to circulate updated SP contact details with the minutes.

Funding Issues - CRISPP Briefing Paper

A briefing paper from CRISPP which outlines the cost pressures on supported housing providers has been circulated to the Finance Minister and the DSD Social Development Committee. A follow-up survey is being undertaken by NIFHA / CHNI. This survey is to try and gather evidence of the number of services being placed at risk due to funding shortfalls. Malcolm to make findings available to Housing Associations when collated.

CHNI / NIFHA / NICVA are meeting to consider lobbying political representatives.

Triangle has raised 2 questions with MLA's – one on why the proportion of the SHDP to be invested in supported housing is so low this year at 10%, and a question on the erosion of the SP revenue budget.

A Triangle delegation will also meet representatives from the Social Development Committee on 30/09/08. (If findings from the provider survey are available prior to this meeting Malcolm to forward a copy to Triangle CX).

SP Modernising Services Project - Consultation on Draft SP Communications Policy

Copies of the draft policy were circulated to the group along with a copy of the draft response from NIFHA. Participants were invited to submit comments via NIFHA should they wish to do so. The group was reminded of the deadline which is 19/09/08. Copy of NIFHA response to be added to the NIFHA SP page.

AOB

One HA reported that Trusts are considering introducing set hourly rates for domiciliary care services.

Next Meeting

TBC
