

Notes of the Meeting to discuss Housing and Care Support in Greater Manchester for Physically Disabled People held on Friday September 21 at 1.00 pm in the St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.

Present:

Peter Norman	Irwell Valley Housing Association (in the chair)
Eiluned Parry	Oldham Social Services Department
Margeret Bone	Tameside
Martin Field	Manchester Disability Forum
Sadie Smith	Lancashire Social Services Department
Dorothy Whitaker	Greater Manchester CVS

Apologies:

Judith Gray	North Manchester Health Authority
Valerie Suffolk	Oldham Social Services Department
Ken Keaton-Smith	Collingwood Housing Association
Ken Lumb	UPIAS
Chris Drinkwater	Rochdale Housing and Disability Group
June Maelzer	Greater Manchester Coalition Disabled People
Don Simpson	Rochdale Housing Department
Bernard Gosschalk	Housing Centre Trust
Susan Kay	Outreach

The Chairman reported that Jennifer Graham had left the post as Secretary to GMCVS Fieldwork and had begun training as an Occupational Therapist. A letter had been sent out to Jennifer expressing the thanks of the Group for all the administrative support she had given since the Group's conception.

Roger Phillips had moved from North British Housing Association and was now Deputy Chief Executive at Collingwood Housing Association - he had informed the Group that Mr Ken Keaton-Smith (Housing Advisor) would be representing Collingwood Housing Association at future meetings.

Susan Kay recently appointed Director of Outreach in Manchester had accepted the invitation to join the Greater Manchester Housing and Disability Group.

1 Notes of Previous Meeting

The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

2 2.1 Research Development Worker

The Chairman reported that it had not been possible for those people delegated to finalise the job description to meet, therefore he had produced a draft Job Description and Grant application for discussion, which was circulated at the meeting - see attached copy. The format was one which had been suggested when Ken Lumb and Peter Norman had met at the North West Public Research Centre at Salford University.

The following points on the draft were completed and/or ammended:

2.2 Organisation

It was generally agreed that GMCVS would be the ideal Contact Address - Dorothy agreed to consult Henry West (General Secretary - GMCVS) about this and about GMCVS acting as employer (see P3 draft, under Administration and Control) although accommodation of the project

at GMCVS would currently be difficult - Manchester Disability Forum could offer accessible accommodation with reasonable overheads - this offer was accepted pro tem.

2.3 Funding (P 2 Item 4 of the Draft)

The principle behind the wording of the Funding paragraph was that not only would it be possible to realise the overall requirements from various sources but also, if the project was backed from a variety of sources, the implications of its work should also have greater and diverse impact. Although this principle was accepted by the meeting, it was also agreed that the Group could not afford to deter the possibility of grant aid coming from one source or contributions of less than £4,000.

Concern was also expressed about the possibility of guaranteed full funding for only the first year and the full-time worker being drawn into the negotiations for the remainder, so inhibiting their development work.

Therefore the sentence beginning - "Finance will be" (top P3 in the Draft) was amended to read "Finance is required in the form of a grant for the total amount or in the form of contributions up to £20,000 spread over three years". The Summary Front Cover would also reflect this change under Funding.

2.4 Objective

Members expressed concern about current "Care in the Community" initiatives being seen primarily as of benefit to mentally impaired people. It was agreed therefore to alter the final sentence under Objective (P1 Draft) - "In this regard....." to read "Unless a substantial input of ideas is made now, the programme of 'Care in the Community' is unlikely to cater for the needs of physically disabled people."

2.5 Job Brief

The Chairman pointed out that the Job Brief was the same as had been agreed at previous meetings by the GM Housing and Disability Group, minus the research element. It was agreed to consider amending 3.7 to read - "in the Greater Manchester and surrounding areas" because of the request for involvement in the project from Lancashire.

The research element could be developed accordingly to the needs of the project in its first year and funding applied for accordingly.

Appendix 1

Dorothy agreed to revise the membership list.

Peter Norman agreed to revise salaries in the light of any current pay awards.

Considerations would also be given to any further supporting evidence eg from individuals, reference to stimulating projects etc.

2.6 Submissions

It was agreed that when all the amendments had been completed - the application should be sent out to prospective Funding Agencies.

3

Questionnaire on Housing and Care Support options in Greater Manchester

a) Visit to Centre on the Environment for the Handicapped (CEH).

Valerie Suffolk and David Goddard had visited CEH on August 28, with a set of guidelines (see attached) prepared by Ken Lumb and Dorothy Whitaker, with the intention of investigating fully the different types of UK Housing and Care Support options. Unfortunately CEH have not put the information they received as a result of the Housing and Care Support survey on to a computer and David and Valerie were faced with the impossible task of reading through 200+ questionnaires. They considered that there was valuable information in these questionnaires but it would take a week's intense research to compare them and provide the information required by the GM Housing and Disability Group.

It was suggested that the GM Housing and Disability Group wrote to CEH expressing disappointment that the information was not in an easily accessible form for regional groups and asking them to consider eliciting the information on our behalf.

- b) Due to illness it had not been possible for Ken Lumb to meet with Dorothy and re-define the checklist prepared for CEH into local GM terms. It was hoped this could be completed by the next meeting so Housing Group members could begin their investigations of Housing and Care Support options in each district of GMC.

4

Independent Living Conference - Nottingham - September 8

(see attached 2 briefing sheets)

Approximately 100 people had attended the Conference, 80% of whom were disabled people, and a strength of purpose amongst disabled people was certainly evident. Dorothy has asked Dick Leaman who lead the workshops Care Support to let her have a copy of his notes if possible as these would be most relevant to the GM Housing and Disability Group.

The GM Housing and Disability Group did contribute towards the expenses of 6 severely disabled people who attended the Conference.

An Information Pack was produced for the Conference including details of 20 different Housing initiatives - a few spare copies are still available from Dorothy Whitaker at GMCVS - free to GM Housing and Disability Group Members.

5

"Care in the Community"

To date the response from DHSS re possibility of funding for projects to help physically impaired people leaving institutions to live fully in the Community, under the "Community Care" initiatives, was not very helpful - they had referred to possibilities under the recently announced 10.5 million Government Aid (see attached Press Release) which is not suitable for the

guaranteed level of Care Support some severely physically impaired people require.

Martin Field suggested the Housing Group contacted the Personal Social Services Research Unit at Kent University who are monitoring "Care in the Community", asking for any information they have published to date.

6 Any other Business

The Chairman circulated copies of Irwell Valley Housing Association's Annual Report which included an article about the Independent Living Scheme they had developed in Eccles (see attached copy).

7 Date, Time of Next Meeting (Postponed from October 19)

Friday November 9 at 1 pm, in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester.

If you are severely disabled and require a parking space at County Hall on November 9, please inform Caroline Wells or Dorothy Whitaker of GMCVS by Tuesday November 6.