

NB THE NEXT HOUSING MEETING WILL BE IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL (NOT AT THE ST THOMAS CENTRE)

Brief notes of the Greater Manchester Housing and Disability Meeting held on Wednesday 12 December 1984 at the St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.

<u>Present:</u>	Peter Norman	Irwell Valley Housing Assoc (in Chair)
	Ron Sims	Oldham MBC (Housing Department)
	E Parry	Oldham Social Services Department
	Val Suffolk	Oldham Social Services Department
	Louise Silburn	The Spastics Society
	Martin Field	Manchester Disability Forum
	Carl Ford	Stoke-on-Trent
	K Keaton-Smith	Collingwood Housing Association
	C Drinkwater	Rochdale Voluntary Action
	B Gosschalk	Housing Centre Trust
	R Dudley-Southern	South Manchester Health Authority
	June Maelzer	GM Coalition of Disabled People
	Sadie Smith	Lancs Social Services
	Chris Haynes	Bolton Housing Department
	Dorothy Whitaker	GMCVS
	Tony Baldwinson	GMCVS
	Caroline Wells	GMCVS

<u>Apologies:</u>	Susan Kay	Outreach
	Margaret Bone	Tameside
	David Goddard	Oldham Disability Action Group
	Don Simpson	Rochdale Housing Department
	Zena Homewood	CSV
	Ken Lumb	UPIAS

1 Minutes of the last meeting

The following amendments were made:

Attendance list - R M Southern was representing South Manchester Health Authority (not Housing Association);
Zena Hammond should read Zena Homewood.

Apologies - Don Timpson should read Don Simpson.

The final paragraph under 4 'Care in the Community' was altered to read 'Martin suggested the Group should also be considering existing local joint finance arrangements which could be used for the needs of severely physically disabled people...'
'Care in the Community' being a rather involved subject, Peter suggested that, at the next meeting, Roy and Martin could perhaps produce a joint statement amplifying the points made in the minutes.

The second paragraph under 5 Funding Arrangements similar to Hampshire was amended to read '...established . A test case may be necessary'.

With these amendments the minutes were accepted as a correct record.

2 Matters arising

- a) 'Care in the Community' - Dorothy had been informed by Roger Hampson (a Research Worker at Kent University) that bids for the next round of funding had already been submitted; only an outstanding bid for severely physically disabled people would now be considered. If anyone had an 'outstanding' project they should contact Department CS4 at the DHSS Headquarters in London to enquire whether or not it would be considered.

Dorothy reported that an adequate bid was one which was well organised and well researched. Roger Hampson said consideration was currently being given to meetings to analyse initiatives in the 'Care in the Community' pilot schemes. There was a lack of schemes for severely physically handicapped people. He hoped GM Housing and Disability Group would be prepared to participate in these meetings.

- b) Ref 2.2 Grant Application for Development Worker - Dorothy reported that, to date, 4 copies had been sent out (2 to Building Societies, 1 to the EEC and 1 to the Building and Social Housing Foundation). Dorothy is working her way through the list of organisations; anyone with the names of other suitable funding bodies should inform her.

3 Direct Funding Arrangements - Martin and Carl

A discussion paper was circulated at the meeting.

It was reported that June and Carl had made applications for direct funding (to Manchester City and Stafford Council respectively).

The advantages of this new system of funding are:

- a) It offers greater long-term security than the system presently in operation;
- b) It gives the user greater control over how the money is spent on care arrangement - control which the Local Authority currently exercises;
- c) It is more flexible and so can be tailored to each individual's specific requirements;
- d) It should work out cheaper.

Users themselves have been dealing with PAYE and National Insurance contributions. It was felt that some people may see these added responsibilities as a disadvantage - however Carl stated that both these tasks are easy to understand and not very time consuming, and maybe a middle agency could undertake them.

The question of who would employ the care staff, (Local Authority or individual user), was posed. Sadie pointed out that the main argument in favour of retaining Local Authority personnel was the back-up this system offered. Martin said that the direct funding arrangement is so flexible it serves as its own back-up and requires no Local Authority staff. Roy felt that, from his own experience, care staff employed by the user seemed to be the better alternative.

Carl reported that many Housing Associations are now looking at models where the care support staff is housed on the same site as the recipients; the usefulness of such an arrangement should be considered.

It was felt it would be helpful to pass on the idea of direct funding to people with a view to obtaining feedback. Dorothy suggested that a Group Member support Anne Miller putting forward the direct funding idea at the next meeting to negotiate her care support arrangements.

The Chairman suggested that, as the Group was proposing to hold a seminar for Local Authorities in the New Year to look at Housing Care Support options, consideration should be given to a paper on direct funding.

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Questionnaire

Dorothy reported that the pilot run had not yet been carried out owing to the amendments made to the questionnaire (in the light of comments made at the last meeting and also as a result of a discussion between herself and Bernard).

Dorothy expressed concern that Q5a) (P2) was still so vast that the answers to it may not be very informative.

The Group agreed that the questionnaire could not stand up on its own and should only go accompanied by the relevant Group Member:

Rochdale	Chris Drinkwater/Ken Lumb
Manchester	June Maelzer/Judith Gray
Bolton	Chris Haynes
Oldham	Valerie Suffolk
Salford	Peter Norman
Bury	Peter Norman
Trafford	Anne Miller
Stockport	Louise Silburn
Wigan	Dorothy Whitaker
Tameside	Margaret Bone
Lancashire	Sadie Smith

A meeting of these 10 members will be called in the second half of January/early February.

Sadie, June and Roy agreed to do a pilot run on the questionnaire as it stands.

Dorothy agreed to reproduce the questionnaire. It is intended for distribution to the Metropolitan Authorities first of all (by the end of February).

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Any other business

- a) A paper 'Cuts in DHSS Residential Care' was circulated for information - it had been prepared by Tony Baldwinson, a staff member of GMCVS and also Chairman of GM CHAR - he felt residents of homes for physically disabled people should be included in the debate and campaign about cuts, and Group Members may wish to pass this information on accordingly.
- b) A paper was circulated on the need for varied housing options for young people with disabilities and it was agreed this issue should be considered in depth at a future meeting.

- c) Bernard wondered whether it may be worth writing to Margaret Flynn who is working on Independent Living Schemes (University of Manchester Adrian Research Centre) to future meetings. Valerie Suffolk agreed to investigate whether Margaret Flynn was working purely on schemes for mentally handicapped people before the Group approached her.

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Date, time next meeting

Friday 25 January at 1 pm in Committee Room 1, County Hall.

NB

- a) If you were absent at the last meeting and would like a copy of any paper circulated at the meeting, please ask Caroline Wells at GMCVS for copies.
- b) Sadie Smith would be pleased to hear from any GM Housing and Disability Group Members who are interested in the 'Quality of Life Project' - see attached letter.