

Notes on Meeting to discuss Housing Provision in Greater Manchester for Physically Disabled People held on Tuesday 2 March 1982 at 10.00 am at North British Housing Association Ltd, Sunlight House, Quay Street, Manchester.

Present: Roger Arkell, North British Housing Association (in the Chair)
Zena Homewood, CSV
Eileen Milnes, Spastics Society
R J Lewis, Stockport Social Services
B Gosschalk, Housing Centre Trust (NW)
Roy Southern, Manchester South Health District
Patrick Mbatha, Manchester AHA
Ken Lumb, Union of the Physically Impaired
Nigel Smith, Spastics Society
June Maelzer
Dorothy Whitaker, GM CVS
Jennifer Graham, GM CVS

Apologies: Peter Norman, Irwell Valley Housing Association
Anne Miller, ARMS
Judith Gray, Manchester AHA
Don Simpson, Rochdale Housing Department

Action

1. Proposed Housing Conference

1.1 It was confirmed that the conference was planned for 30 September and the venue would be the Reception Suite, County Hall, Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester.

1.2 The proposed programme, which had been amended at the last sub-committee meeting, was tabled.

1.3 Title: It was suggested the conference be entitled 'Housing and Care Support for People with Physical Disabilities.'

1.4 Chairman: Tim Yeo, Director of The Spastics Society, who was invited to Chair the conference was unable to attend and it was decided to ask Anne Shearer if she would act as chairman. As a third choice Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Deputy Director Spastics Society, was suggested.

10.10 Setting the Scene - Vic Finkelstein has been invited to speak on the topic 'Independent Living for Disabled People.' As yet, no reply has been received.

10.45 The role of Social Service Departments in the housing needs of people with physical disabilities. Bob Bessell, Director of Social Services Department, Warwickshire has been invited to speak on this topic.

11.20 Questions.

11.40 Housing and Allied Care Support - Norman Summers, Director of Habinteg (confirmed).

12.30 Lunch.

2.00 Video - The sub-committee organising the video are aiming to have it completed by the end of September.

2.45 Workshops - Bernard and Roy are looking at possible topics.

1.5 Proposed group leaders have not been formally asked if they will undertake the tasks, Dorothy will write to them.

1.6 The sub-committee felt that the task of reporting back from the groups was too major a task to leave to one person. They felt there should be three reports.

1.7 Who is the conference aimed at? This was discussed briefly. In the sub-committee notes of 6 January the aim of the conference was stated as 'to promote a more flexible approach to the needs of housing for physically handicapped people among the major agencies concerned with such provision eg Housing and Social Service Departments, Housing Associations and Rehabilitation Units.' It might be wise to give a broad base to the conference addressing it to both consumers and suppliers however, the former are more likely to attend than the latter who will need 'encouragement'. The conference sub-committee should look at this problem. Something could be put on the front of the programme stating clearly the 'aim' of the conference ie 'Conference will look at problems faced by statutory organisations in the provision of services for disabled people and will examine proposals which are being implemented in this country'.

1.8 It was suggested that each group might have two representatives of disabled people who have personal housing needs and workshop leaders should be encouraged to promote the needs of disabled people as individuals in respect of housing provision.

1.9 It was suggested that two people be asked to be prepared to speak in the afternoon to re-emphasise the theme of 'Independent Living' before the workshops, perhaps Ken Davies and Ken Lumb. This led to the suggestion that Ken Davis be invited to speak for 10 minutes or so after the video and before the workshops to set the scene. Having personal experience of the problems involved in getting out of residential care and setting up Grove Road he would be an ideal person to speak. DW to write.

1.10 Knowing before hand who would be in what group would be advantageous, group leaders could then organise their groups. Various ideas regarding whether or not people should be split by topic or geographic area were voiced. The sub-committee would decide if and how people would be allocated to groups.

1.11 Ideas for discussion topics for the group were requested and should be sent to Dorothy who will circulate them to members of the sub-committee.

1.12 Nigel felt the report back arrangements were unsatisfactory. He suggested each group should report back but heading only should be listed, with no supporting comment, of points that need to be followed up. It was also suggested some commitment should be given by the representatives that they take forward any proposals made.

1.13 Tea will be served after the workshops - not during as previously stated.

1.14 The speakers will be given specific briefs - this is the general practice of Housing Centre Trust and works well.

1.15 A suggestion was made that the Trades Unions involved with the Health Service should be invited to the conference because the unions are concerned about voluntary care taking away jobs from members.

2. Video

2.1 Denis Pass of Manchester Polytechnic had calculated a production cost of £1 000 for the film, this would include travel expenses and hire of equipment. Dorothy has applied to the Jubilee Trust for the production costs.

2.2 Denis Pass has agreed to act as producer and will do the work in his own time but will be able to use Manchester Polytechnic equipment. He sees no reason why the film should not be completed by September but suggested filming should start as soon as possible.

2.3 Ken Lumb produced a draft script which contained many good ideas and he was now going to produce a matrix of points to be discussed at the next sub-committee meeting.

2.4 The aims and objectives will be circulated to the main committee and an estimate of the total production costs of the film calculated. It was also pointed out that the film could be used to persuade disabled people that using correct and suitable equipment, especially lifting equipment, was not only advantageous to them but also to carers.

3. Sponsoring of Conference & Video

3.1 Video - Dorothy had already written to the Jubilee Trust and if the application was not successful then the Heinz & Anna Kroch Foundation or Gulbenkian Foundation could/would be approached.

3.2 Conference - could perhaps look for two sponsors and might try approaching a local aids firm - Wessex, Ratcliffe or Mechaniaids - or a bank or building society. If an aids firm agreed to sponsor the conference and space permitted they could perhaps be allowed to display equipment that day. This suggestion was not totally accepted by the group for various reasons:

- i) was it right one firm should be given the opportunity to display its products at the conference.
- ii) the aids on display may not be the best available.
- iii) some new technology is not available to people because the Department of Health and Social Services have contracts with certain firms and they may not necessarily be the ones producing the most up-to-date equipment.

However it was still agreed to try them for sponsorship.

4. Community Service Volunteers

4.1 Nothing further to report on the situation other than the fact that CSV were aiming at opening an office, perhaps in Warrington, to cover the area of Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire. Should have more information for next meeting.

5. Identifying Clients for Specially Adapted Housing.

5.1 Peter Norman was still looking for names of people who might be interested in the specially adapted flats being built in Eccles by Irwell Valley Housing Association (Stockport have a similar scheme in Hillgate). The two flats would be situated on the ground floor, one with two bedrooms, the other one bedroom.

5.2 Ken Lumb offered to arrange a visit to Grove Road for the architect designing the flats. It was also suggested that the Centre on Environment for the Handicapped might also be consulted in advance about building design etc. The general feeling was that Irwell Valley should continue with the project.

5.3 Eileen Milnes reported that a senior member of the nursing staff at the Young Disabled Unit in Withington Hospital was very interested in the work of the Housing and Disability Group and Ken Lumb and June Maelzer volunteered to visit her and some of the residents to talk about the work if the group and possible potential residents for the Eccles scheme.

5.4 A copy of the letters to district Health Authorities drafted by Judith Gray was tabled and it was agreed that these letters be circulated to all members of the group and comments made at the next meeting. Although initially people had reservations about the letter it was generally felt that if these could be discussed with Judith Gray, any misunderstandings may well be clarified.

6. Miscellaneous Points of Interest

6.1 At the end of March the Area Health Authorities cease to exist and Roy Southern will no longer be able to represent Manchester Area Health Authority (T). He was invited to attend the meeting on a personal basis if possible.

6.2 Roger Arkell will be moving to a new post in Preston. He will no longer be based in Manchester and so will not be able to attend these meetings however he intends to maintain his interest in the group. Roger will arrange accommodation at North British Housing Association for the group's meetings until his successor takes up post.

6.3 There is no longer a GM Housing Associations Group. Peter Norman is a representative on the National Association of Housing Federations.

7. Date of Next Meeting.

7.1 10.30 Wednesday 21 April 1982 at North British Housing Association Ltd, Sunlight House, Quay Street, Manchester.

7.2 If possible the North British Housing Association's mini Fokus type scheme in Preston will be discussed.