

Notes on the Meeting to discuss Housing & Care Support Provision in Greater Manchester for Physically Disabled People held on Wednesday 19 January at 11.00 am in the St Thomas Centre.

Present: Peter Norman, Irwell Valley Housing Association (in the Chair)
Chris Drinkwater, Rochdale Housing & Disability Group
Julie Woulfe, MACC and Manchester Disability Forum
Nigel Smith, Spastics Society
Bernard Gosschalk, Housing Centre Trust
Anne Miller, ARMS
Margaret Bone, Tameside
Roy Southern, South Manchester H A & STAPH
Ken Lumb, UPIAS
Dorothy Whitaker, Greater Manchester CVS
Jennifer Graham, Greater Manchester CVS

Apologies: Zena Homewood, CSV
Roger Phillips, North British Housing Association
Judith Grey, North Manchester Health Authority

June Maelzer had taken ill suddenly and been admitted to hospital. The Chairman asked that a letter be sent on behalf of the Group wishing her a speedy recovery.

Action

DW

1. Notes of Previous Meeting

1.1 Item 5.1 line 7 which read "if they could form their loan of £125 into a grant" should read "if they could form their loan of £250 into a grant".

1.2 Item 3.3 should include the fact that as far as possible these sheets should be kept up to date so that only current information accompanies the video.

2. Agenda for Today

2.1 The Chairman suggested the agenda should be:

- Future of the Group
- Editing of Video
- Social Services Representation
- Conference Report
- CSV/DoE Worker

2.2 It was agreed that the future role of the group should be discussed first since all other decisions depended on the outcome of this discussion.

3. Future Role of the Group

3.1 Bernard had produced a paper after discussion with June Maelzer and Ken Lumb. Ken had also produced a paper after the same discussion in which he had listed certain aims and points. Both these papers were circulated with the minutes. Questions arising from these papers:

- a) Is a Group required.
- b) What should be the objectives.
- c) Who should be invited to join the Group.
- d) Relationships with other organisations.

4. Is the Group Required

4.1 It was generally agreed that the Group had already achieved recognition in the field of housing and care support and it's work should continue because there are great needs in this field and there is no other specific organisation in Greater Manchester promoting them.

4.2 At this point the Chairman introduced Julie Woulfe from Manchester Alliance for Community Care who circulated MACC's Manifesto Leaflet. Julie is seconded by Manchester CVS to MACC. The Alliance is concerned with all types of disability and is a group of organisations which represent disabled people but covers the geographical area of Manchester City only.

4.3 The feasibility of Greater Manchester Housing & Disability Group being a generic umbrella organisation for disabled people was not possible at the moment.

5. Who Should be Invited to Join the Group

5.1 It was decided to leave the composition of the Group until after we had discussed the Group's objectives.

6. What Should be the Objectives

6.1 After discussion of Ken and Bernard's aims the following four points were formulated:-

- a) To promote within Greater Manchester County independent living of physically impaired people in the wider community, by encouraging the provision of suitable housing with any necessary care support schemes.
- b) To monitor progressive developments in forms of housing provision and support systems with the intention of raising awareness of these developments amongst appropriate organisations and agencies.
- c) to promote the active involvement of physically impaired people and organisations, throughout Greater Manchester, in housing and care support issues.
- d) To assist individuals with their housing and support problems in so far as the resources of the group will allow.

6.2 Educational/Promotional Role

6.2.1 There is a need to increase the awareness, in a positive way, of both disabled people and service providers of the existence of alternatives in housing and care support. One example of this was the conference and the video is currently a very important educational tool.

6.2.2 Performing the educational role can overlap with campaigning and support roles. In Tameside when the film was shown certain people got ideas about alternative accommodation and now they have turned to the Group for help.

	<u>Campaigning</u>	<u>Action</u>
6.3		
6.3.1	Discussion about whether the Group should campaign and if so how. Should we campaign in a political way and/or in a high profile way? Ken felt it was not possible to be a-political in the issue of housing. Roy felt we had got neither the expertise nor the facilities to get involved in mass campaigning. He was concerned that such campaigning, if wrongly interpreted by the press, could seriously affect the Group's relationships with important complimentary organisations eg housing associations, local authorities etc.	
6.3.2	In certain individual cases the Group agreed that as a last resort they would be prepared to promote a campaign, including press involvement.	
6.4	<u>Support</u>	
6.4.1	Ken was particularly concerned that the Group should attempt to bring together the appropriate people in geographical areas to motivate them to consider the many alternatives in housing and care support. This implies involving potential residents in the discussion process.	
6.4.2	A long discussion centred on whether the group should give support to individual cases followed.	
6.4.3	The general agreement was that we should attempt to assist individuals in so far as the resources of the group would allow. This currently would mean providing up-to-date information and advice plus a liaison role with contacts the Group knew to be sympathetic.	
6.4.4	If no appropriate agency exists or if the initial introductions and advice do not reach a satisfactory conclusion the Group would feel obliged to help the individual. In the former case this may mean the Group discussing the problem and agreeing how best to proceed, and how members of the Group should be involved. In the latter case someone may be delegated to take up the case and/or a formal letter from the Chairman sent to the appropriate agency.	
6.4.5	Do we help people with any problems allied with housing and care support or are we just concerned with those seeking an alternative to institutional care? Roy pointed out that institutional care in the widest sense could include someone wishing to live independently from their family. Therefore, we should consider each case on its merits.	
6.4.6	When the Group became involved in individual cases Margaret felt we should have a set of guidelines as she was already experiencing problems in her involvement with an individual case in Tameside. It was agreed to have a short discussion about this particular case after the meeting.	
6.4.7	If the post concerned with housing and care support, suggested by DoE to CSV materialised, and was based with the GM Housing & Disabilit Group, some of the supportive roles outlined above could possibly be taken on.	

		<u>Action</u>
6.5.	<u>Operational</u>	
6.5.1	It was considered unrealistic for the Group to provide housing and care support because we do not have the resources and the legitimacy of the Group may be questioned.	
6.6	<u>Monitoring Role</u>	
6.6.1	It was agreed that an annual review of developments in housing and care support, particularly in Greater Manchester County, should be carried out by the Group. This could possibly be included in the DoE post. The questionnaires devised by Anne Miller, which could help in this monitoring process, were circulated.	
7.	<u>Adjournment of Meeting</u>	
7.1	As we had run out of time the Chairman adjourned the meeting. The next meeting was set for Friday 28 January at 11.00 am when the discussion on the Future of the Group would be resumed followed by outstanding items on the agenda.	
8.	<u>Any Other Business</u>	
8.1	Dorothy circulated details of a meeting organised by Islington Disablement Association on 28 January - "Independent Living in Islington" at which the video featured prominently.	
8.2	Nigel reported that as a result of a meeting convened by Crewe Spastics Society at which he and Zena spoke, and the video was shown, Crewe and Nantwich Housing Department are proposing to build two purpose built flats with guaranteed care support facilities.	