

Notes of the Meeting to discuss Housing & Care Support Provision in Greater Manchester for Physically Disabled People held on Thursday 24 February 1983 in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Manchester.

Present: Peter Norman, Irwell Valley Housing Association (in the Chair)
Chris Drinkwater, Rochdale Housing & Disability Group
Zena Homewood, CSV
Margaret Bone, Tameside
June Maelzer, Access & Disability Forum
Dorothy E Whitaker, GM CVS
Ken Lumb, UPIAS
Roy Southern, South Manchester Health Authority & STAPHP
Julie Woulfe, MACC and Manchester Disability Forum
Sadie Smith, Lancashire Social Services Department
Jennifer Graham, GM CVS
Kevin Hyett, Salford

Apologies: Anne Miller, ARMS
Bernard Gosschalk, Housing Centre Trust
Patrick Mbatha, Manchester A H A (T)
Nigel Smith, Spastics Society
Roger Phillips, North British Housing Association Ltd

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Sadie Smith and Mr Kevin Hyett to the meeting and for their benefit gave a short summary of the group's activities over the past six months.

1. **Notes of Previous Meeting**

Action

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

2. **Matters Arising**

2.1 The Chairman suggested a short paper be written explaining the composition and purpose of the Group. The material from this should be in the form of questions and answers, the questions being taken from Bernard and Ken's Papers and the answers from the notes of previous meetings based on the decisions taken.

PN &
DW

2.2 Guidelines

2.3 Margaret said she wanted to raise the proposal to produce guidelines for individuals requesting support and she asked if the Group approved of the following being listed as a guideline:

2.4 "Convene meetings with Social Services Team, Housing or Letting Manager and/or Officer in Charge of Institution and the person who has requested help and the member of the Group concerned. The meeting should take place on neutral ground and minutes produced. The minutes could be discussed at the Group Meeting if the Group Member wishes advice."

2.5 It was generally agreed that the response to a request for support should be informal. But if all informal channels had been pursued and progress still proves difficult this guideline might be a good formal approach.

2.6 Initially it is often a case of giving people confidence to dictate what happens to them. It is important that the person seeking support is always made fully aware of the current situation and included in all decisions made on their behalf. It should be made clear that the G M Housing & Disability Group can only give limited personal support. Therefore it was agreed that Margaret's guideline, and the more formal ideas on support, should be discussed at the next meeting.

- 2.3 Social Services Representation Action
- 2.3.1 Dorothy had written to Mrs Shepherdson who had expressed interest in the meetings but doubted that she could attend if they were held at regular monthly intervals. Mrs Smith, who was deputising for her, agreed to inform Mrs Shepherdson that consideration was being given to the frequency of meetings. SS
- 2.3.2 Margaret had been given the names of two people who might be valuable members of the Group - John Luke (Stockport Social Services) and Tony Murray (Manchester Social Services).
- 2.3.3 Roy was awaiting a reply from Bob Lewis giving suggestions of Social Service representation. Therefore Dorothy would contact John Luke and Tony Murray depending on Bob Lewis's reply. DW
- 2.3.4 Dorothy was awaiting a reply from John Bellinghall re his representation.
- 2.4 Housing Department Representation
- 2.4.1 Don Simpson had apologised for his lack of attendance at recent meetings but expressed his continuing interest in the Group's activities.
- 2.4.2 Peter had informally invited Alistair Robertson, Deputy Director of Housing, Bolton and was awaiting a formal response.
- 2.5 CSV/DoE
- 2.5.1 Peter Norman said he had received a reply from CSV thanking the Group for their proposal and stating that the funding from EEC was going ahead but now only two workers would be employed for a two year period.
- 2.5.2 Suggestions for the scheme to date are:
- 2.5.2.1 that the workers have housing experience
- 2.5.2.2 workers to be placed where there has been no action on care support to date
- 2.5.2.3 workers placed in areas where there is CSV management capacity.
- 2.5.3 Peter agreed to write CSV about points 2.5.2.2 and 2.5.2.3 based on the following suggestions: PN
- 2.5.3.1 Reference point 2.5.2.2 Zena did not necessarily think this would exclude the Greater Manchester Housing & Disability Group as there are definitely areas of Greater Manchester and adjoining counties where there is no obvious action on care/support schemes.
- 2.5.3.2 Reference point 2.5.2.3 there is a CSV Manager for the North West.
- 2.5.4 There is to be a meeting in the near future involving DoE/CSV to which the Chairman of the Housing Corporation had been invited. We should hear the results of this meeting before Easter.
- 2.5.5 Dorothy stressed the importance of the Group having a full-time worker because of the number and type of enquiries we received eg Spinal Injuries Association are now tending to refer all queries about housing in Greater Manchester to the Group.
- 2.5.6 Julie mentioned the Student Placement Unit at Manchester CVS which might be one alternative for a worker if the CSV/DoE application was not forthcoming.

2.6 Video Editing

2.6.1 Two versions have now been agreed on - the shortest being 35 minutes. Dennis has started editing.

2.6.2 Dorothy is still awaiting a reply to the Group's application to the DoE 1982/83 Underspend. The application was for £2 000.00 and included a video monitor and recorder.

2.6.2 Dorothy to contact Peter Norman if this application is unsuccessful. Roy would be willing to contact South Manchester Health Authority for funds.

2.7 Conference Report & Questionnaires

2.7.1 Apart from the Chairman's introduction which Peter was still editing the Conference Report was ready for printing except for Don Simpson's contribution which had still not been received. This contribution was considered vital to the value of the Report and Peter and Ken agreed to give Don Simpson something more than a gentle reminder!

PN
KL

A G E N D A

1. Conference of National Federation of Housing Associations.

2. Video Circulation.

3. How do we follow up the Video?

4. Frequency of Group Meetings.

3. **Conference of National Federation of Housing Association 1983**

3.1 This will be held at UMIST on 16/18 September. There is always an exhibition at this conference and this year space is to be given to voluntary organisations with an interest in housing.

3.2 The Group accepted Peter's offer of space at the Conference. The stall would have to be manned from Friday night until Sunday evening. Dorothy suggested Group members should run the stall on a shift system to be decided nearer the date. This was agreed. Peter was asked to investigate the access to Renold Building, UMIST.

PN

4. **Video Circulation**

4.1 The Group already had a draft of a letter to Directors and Chairmen of Social Services Departments in Greater Manchester offering to show the edited version of the video to their committees.

4.2 Margaret was keen that Social Service Area Teams should be given the opportunity to see and discuss the contents of the video. June will therefore follow-up the contact she has made with the Manchester Area 3 Rehabilitation Team for a suggested date to show the video. Zena has also been invited to speak to the OTs at Withington Hospital and will consider showing the video. An approach to the other Area Teams could be based on the responses received from these two visits. Also the Group is considering a half day seminar for Directors and Senior Staff in Social Service Departments - this will be discussed at the next meeting.

JM

4.3 The Group then had a detailed discussion as to how we could gain access to residential institutions for disabled people in order to show the video. It was decided to take advantage of any contacts the Group had with institutions, for instance Julie had been introduced to the residents of Meadowside by a further education tutor who teaches there. Kevin outlined the difficulties of trying to show the video in Salford, these are partly due to the statutory authorities reaction to the way they are presented in the video. Therefore sympathetic individuals credible to the local authority yet sympathetic to the housing and care support issue eg Dr Eifian Owens could be recruited to act as resource people.

4.4 Other ideas for circulation of the video:

4.4.1 Kevin would pursue the possibility of a private showing for interested people in Salford.

KH

4.4.2 Margaret and Zena suggested colleges of further education for disabled people eg Beaumont College.

4.4.3 Chief Housing Officers - Don Simpson in charge of this.

4.4.4 Greater Manchester Housing Associations Group - Peter.

4.4.5 Housing Centre Trust - Bernard.

5. **How do we Follow up the Video?**

5.1 We are in the business of creating a demand but we are not necessarily in the position of satisfying the demand, but it is important to try and identify some form of backup before we create this demand in an area. If CSV convenes a meeting in an area about the independent living scheme they ensure that there is someone present from Social services who can process any developments.

6. **Frequency of Meetings**

6.1 It seemed appropriate to revert back to bi-monthly meetings now and everyone agreed this was ok.

7. **Any Other Business**

7.1 Bernard had received a reply from North British Housing Association agreeing to a request that their £250 loan be converted to a grant.

7.2 June had spoken to Derek Jones, Educational Liaison Officer, Channel 4 about the video. He had suggested the video be sent to him for consideration as television material. The Group felt that something more definite should be done in that direction - they were not prepared to let the video be sent out to lie on peoples' desks for a few weeks.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 19 April at 11.00 am in Committee Room 2 at County Hall. The room must be vacated by no later than 1.00 pm.