

Notes on the Meeting to discuss Housing Provision in GM for Physically Disabled People held on Tuesday 25 May at 10.30 am at North British Housing Association Ltd, Sunlight House, Quay Street, Manchester.

Present: Peter Norman, Irwell Valley Housing Association (in the Chair)
Roy Southern, Manchester South Health District
Zena Homewood, CSV
Bob Lewis, Stockport Social Services
June Maelzer, Manchester Disability Forum & Access Committee
Bernard Gosschalk, Housing Centre Trust (NW), University of Manchester
School of Architecture
Dorothy Whitaker, Greater Manchester CVS
Jennifer Graham, Greater Manchester CVS

Apologies: Roger Arkell, North British Housing Association Ltd
Chris Withnall, Institute of Housing NW Branch
Nigel Smith, Spastics Society
Anne Miller, ARMS

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| 1. | <u>Proposed Housing Conference</u> | |
| 1.1 | A draft programme for the Conference was circulated. Suggestions on how to improve the programme were accepted and a second draft will be produced. | |
| 1.2 | There was a short discussion on the pros and cons of inviting Trades Union representatives to the Conference. It was decided to invite regional trades union representatives and Nalگو and T & GWU were added to the list. | |
| 1.3 | In order that all six workshops operate in a similar manner the group leaders will meet the week preceding the Conference and the notes from this meeting will be circulated as a briefing paper. | |
| 1.4 | A request that DHSS, Housing Corporations and Directors of Special Education be included in the invitation list was made. | |
| 2. | <u>Video</u> | |
| 2.1 | The search for funds (either grants or loans) had been fruitful. Peter Norman had succeeded in obtaining £100 from the NW Association of Housing Corporations; Don Simpson sent £30; Roy Southern thought he and Judith Gray had a reasonable chance of extracting £250 from Regional Health Authority. | |
| 2.2 | Dorothy has opened the bank account in the name of Greater Manchester CVS Housing & Care Support Fund. | |
| 2.3 | Ken Lumb's paper entitled 'After September' will be discussed at the next meeting. | |
| 2.4 | Referring to paragraph 2.11 of the notes on the last meeting Dorothy reported that no editing of film would be done until all filming was complete - probably by the end of June. Peter Norman felt strongly that the editor(s) should be independent from the producer. Others present felt that, due to limited funds, the production group ought to do the editing, maybe with an independent assessor such as Dr E Owens who had expressed interest in the work of the group but had been unable to join them "on location" due to pressure of work. | |

Action

3. Identifying Clients for Specially Adapted Housing

- 3.1 The two letters written by Judith Gray on this topic were to be discussed but as Judith was not present at the meeting the discussion was postponed until the next meeting.
- 3.2 A short discussion followed about whether these letters were appropriate in this instance. Basically the problem is that standard housing is built and no liaison taken place between say Social Service Departments and contractors until the site is handed over then adaptations are made and this costs more than having the adaptations done as part of the original building works. On the other hand it is difficult to design for individuals because schemes take three/four years to completion and individual's circumstances can change over that period of time. The ideal solution would be to design a range of housing in both size and facilities which could be easily adapted with minor alternations but although the DoE state specifications for the type of housing they would prefer built the finances they allocate are restrictive. Housing Associations, unlike developers, are willing to liaise on design. It was felt that this matter might be better left until after the Conference in September.

4. Shelter & British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) Initiative on Housing

- 4.1 Peter Norman said Irwell Valley Housing Association had agreed to be a participant in the Shelter Housing initiative when and if its ideas were finally formulated. He had been in contact with a group of disabled people in Salford who agreed to liaise with Irwell Valley if necessary. The Salford group had requested the GM Housing & Disability Group's help in this liaison and Dorothy had replied saying that she did not feel this would be difficult as both she and Peter Norman were closely in contact with both groups. Peter Norman agreed to reply to the letter from Dick Leaman of BCODP, which was circulated at a previous meeting, asking for the Housing & Disability Group's help with the project.

5. Film - "Swedish Fokus"

This film was shown at the end of the meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 25 June at 10.30 am at GM CVS Office, The St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.