

Notes on the meeting to discuss Housing Provision in GM for Physically Disabled People held on Friday 25th June at 10.30am in the St Thomas Centre Ardwick Green North, Manchester .

Present

Peter Norman, Irwell Valley Housing Assoc (in the chair)
Bob Lewis, Social Services Division, Stockport
Zena Homewood, CSV
Bernard Gosschalk, Housing Centre Trust
Nigel Smith Spastics Society
Anne Miller, ARMS
Dorothy Whitaker GMCVS
Margaret Bone, Tameside
Roy Southern, South Manchester Health Authority
Chris Drinkwater, Rochdale Voluntary Action
Winifred Edwards, " " "
Jennifer Graham, GMCVS
June Maeltzer, Manchester Disability Forum & Access Committee

Apologies

Roger Arkell, North British Housing Assoc Ltd
Chris Whithall, Institute of Housing NW Branch
Eileen Milnes, Spastics Society
Patrick Mbatha, South Manchester Health Authority

1. Notes of Previous Meeting

Action

The Chairman referred to paragraph 2.4 the sentence covering the editing of the film. He felt the feeling of the meeting was more strongly in favour of an independent editor than appeared from the Notes. It was noted that an independent editor should work with the group if this was possible without causing offence to the video group.

2. Proposed Housing Conference

A draft Conference programme was circulated and generally people felt it would be acceptable with a few minor alterations.

2.2 Dorothy hoped to send out letters publicising the Conference in the coming week. The mailing list would amount to 250 people and would be composed of names put forward by the Group over the last few months.

2.3 Places at the Conference will be restricted to 100 and applications will be selected to give the best geographical / cross sectional representation.

2.4 The Conference Sub - group were to meet at the end of July to decide on the contents of the Information Pack. Dorothy asked if members of the main group who had suggestions for contents of the pack would submit them before the end of July.

2.5 As mentioned in earlier minutes The Spastics Society has given £200 toward production costs of the Information Pack.

3. Video

3.1 A cheque for £250 had been received from the North British Housing Association. Although given as a loan there is a possibility that this could become permanent.

3.2 Regional Health Authority were giving £250 and this was in the pipeline.

3.3 Dorothy reported no further news of the application to the Jubilee Trust. She felt that as time passed without news the chance of the application being successful decreased and so an application for £200 has been made to GM Lotteries.

- 3.4 The filming was now almost completed it should be finished early July.
- 3.5 A great deal of film has been shot and the question of whether or not a professional or independent editor should be invited to select the final material was again discussed. Dennis Pass is well aware of the problems of editing with a view to producing a video which will have impact and demonstrate the possibilities and achievement in this area. He had already given a great deal of time to the filming and he wanted to be involved in the editing but might be willing to work with someone else.

The video sub-group were also keen to be involved in the editing and their commitment and hard work should be remembered and the fact that they wanted to be involved in the editing.

A decision was made to submit three names to Dennis and ask his advice on who would be the most suitable or ask for suggestions.

A narrator and script was also needed and Dorothy felt Dr Owens might be suitable for this.

The urgency of a narrator and script was growing and the sub-group were asked to note this.

- 4 Ken had not been able to produce a paper a "After September" but he was willing to do so if members of the group would submit ideas and comments to him for compilation.

- 5 Peter had followed up the Shelter and BCODP initiative but had no response yet.

- 6 Hillgate Development, Stockport

A paper was circulated gives details of the above development. Four bungalows and a number of flats (ground floor) were available for people with mobility problems. There was no limit to the level of care occupants would require and it was hoped that tailor-made care service could be provided for individuals.

- 7 New Housing Development Manchester

It was reported that Manchester City was discussing the possibility of building 5 blocks of accommodation 8-beds in each for severely physically handicapped people, some with personality problems. The fact that this type of development was even being considered demonstrated how little progress had been made and it would appear that Manchester had not consulted disabled people. Disabled people are being given more say in what provision is made and they have a right to a certain amount of control on their own.

In Stockport consultation has been carried out since the beginning of the Hillgate development with representatives from the Voluntary Sector, Housing Dept, Rehabilitation Officers, Management and physically handicapped people on the steering group.

- 8 The previous topic lead to a discussion about the role of the group after the conference in September.

It was generally felt that the Group had an educational role in the field of Housing & Care Support to continue but the problem was how should we be recognised - as a Lobby/Pressure Group or as an Advisory Study Group. If we were seen as the former it might preclude certain members from remaining in the group. And if we are seen as an Advisory / Study Group we need to be informed of each districts policy and provision re. Housing & Care Support. Roy Southern said he would be prepared to collate the responses if we questioned each Authority accordingly. But whatever educational role the Group adopted it should not be a passive one and we should be prepared to support local groups and individuals who sought our assistance and advice. One suggestion was that maybe we could extend the information to be contained in the "Conference Pack" to include a bibliography and film list and advertise that we had this information available and local resources of the same.

Action

9 June Maeltzer said she had just been informed that RADAR were offering a grant for Projects concerned with Access in its broadest sense and maybe there might be some money available from this fund for the Housing & Video / Conference. Dorothy said she would investigate this.

10 Grove Road - Video

Dorothy said there was a possibility a copy of this would be available for the next meeting. The Group agreed to having it shown if it was ready.

11 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 30th July at 10.30am at GMCVS Office, The St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.
