

SALFORD CROSSROADS CARE ATTENDANT SCHEME

APPLICATION FOR JOINT FUNDING 1984/85 - 1988/89

WHAT IS CROSSROADS

Many handicapped people are able to live at home only because of the constant support of another person - a friend, a housekeeper, statutory domiciliary services or, most often, a relative (though sometimes an entire family working to a shift system).

Looking after a severely disabled person is frequently arduous and stressful and a point can easily be reached where the carer or carers can no longer cope and as a consequence the disabled person has to leave home for a long period, often forever, thus adding to pressure on scarce resources.

By providing help for those who care for disabled people in their own homes, Crossroads seek to prevent this situation arising.

The Crossroads Care Attendants Scheme was started in Rugby in 1973. Now operating in about 50 areas, it is a proven method of supplying care attendants to disabled people. Flexibility is one of its most notable features; all age groups can receive long or short term care at the time of the day or night when it is most needed. Significant amounts of care are required before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. and at weekends.

It may seem surprising that with Community Nurses, Social Workers, Health Visitors, Occupational Therapists, Home Helps and Meals on Wheels there remains an unmet need; but there does. A properly trained, reliable Care Attendant complements rather than duplicates these services and can be the crucial factor in determining whether or not a disabled person is able to continue living at home.

The following is an edited extract from a questionnaire completed by a mother who is receiving Crossroads support. Names have been altered.

Question - How long have you been caring for your son?

Answer - For eleven years - since he had a motorcycle accident when he was 17.

Question - Can you leave him alone for any length of time?

Answer - No, John is very demanding what with not being able to do anything for himself, he is a paraplegic and his brain is damaged.

Question - How is your own health?

Answer - Not so good - I have had rheumatism and bronchitis for three years.

Continued/.....

Question - Do you have any help in looking after John, apart from statutory services, such as friends, neighbours or relatives?

Answer - No, I think it's because he needs a lot doing for him.

Question - Is your housing suitable for you ?

Answer - It is now, but for ten years before we came here, John slept in the front room downstairs and I made up a bed on the settee every night. I had to fight very hard to get this bungalow.

Question - In what ways do the care attendants help you?

Answer - They come once a week for three hours to look after John and see to his needs so that I can go shopping. They have stayed one or two nights to let me go to a party and I know that he is in capable hands whilst I'm not here.

Question - Have you any general comments you would like to make about Crossroads or caring?

Answer - Just that I can't thank them enough for all the kindness, care and attention they give to John. When you have nursed someone for eleven years without any help it is nice to know that someone cares.

This woman's experience of caring for her severely disabled son is by no means unique.

Many caring families present the same picture of ceaseless care, spanning many years, with little support and the strain frequently exacerbated by the carer's ill health and unsuitable housing.

BACKGROUND TO SALFORD SCHEME

Following their involvement in the Salford Committee for the International Year of Disabled People, a number of local individuals, being themselves disabled people, identified the need for a Crossroads type scheme in Salford. An initial meeting was held in May 1982 attended by representatives of local voluntary organisations and the statutory health and social services, which strongly supported the establishment of a Crossroads Scheme in Salford. A steering Committee was formed to consider how this might be arranged.

The Steering Committee has met on a monthly basis during the last 18 months and has considered the following questions:-

- Assessment of the needs for such a scheme in Salford (See Appendix 1)
- Geographical area to be covered (Salford Metropolitan District)
- Types of disability to be included (See OBJECTIVES below)
- Sources of funding for Scheme.

It was agreed that an application be submitted to the Inner City Committee of the Manchester/Salford Partnership for initial funding in 1983/84 and that an application for Joint Funding be submitted for 1984/85. The Inner City Committee approved our application for 1983/84 and granted a non-recurrent budget of £21,000. from 1st August, 1983 to 31st July 1984. (See below)

This Application is being submitted for the period 1st August 1984 to 31st March 1985 and the subsequent four years from 1st April, 1985 to 31st March 1989.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

- To relieve in Salford the condition of physically or mentally disabled people suffering from paraplegia, tetraplegia, multiple sclerosis or other chronic and disabling condition or illness, by the provision of home Care Attendants for such persons to assist the families or persons responsible for the care of such persons.
- At the discretion of the Management Committee to provide such home Care Attendants for such disabled persons living alone.

MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHEME

The Scheme is managed by a Steering Committee which includes representatives of local Voluntary organisations, Salford Health Authority and Social Services department and potential "consumers" of the service (i.e. carers). This Steering Committee will be replaced at the first Annual General Meeting by a Management Committee whose activities will be subject to the "Rules of the Salford Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme". These "Rules" (or "Constitution") have been approved by the Charity Commissioners, so the scheme will be a registered Charity with the objectives as indicated above.

The day-to-day administration of the Scheme is undertaken by a part-time co-ordinator who is responsible to the Management Committee. The Scheme operates from an office within Willowbank Day Care Extension, Queensway, Clifton, Swinton (tel: 061-728-2731).)

OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

The Scheme has been in operation in Salford since 26th September, 1983. During the period since then, a total of persons have been referred as potential users of the Service. Each referral has been followed by the Co-ordinator visiting the family concerned to assess the suitability of the person referred for the services provided by Crossroads and the extent of support required.

The referrals have originated from the following sources:-

Community Nursing Service
Hospital Nursing Service
Social Workers
General Medical Practitioners
Other sources

Of these referrals the types of disability conditions have included the following:-

Even during such a brief period of operation the Scheme has started to demonstrate that it meets a genuine need in the community. It appears that families and other carers of disabled people are prepared to make use of a service, geared to meet their particular needs.

The present level of funding provides resources for the following staff:-

Part-time Co-ordinator (at present 25 hours per week)

Part-time Clerk (at present 4 hours per week)

Six part time Care Attendants (at present to a maximum of 100 hours per week)

The 1983/84 Budget for the Scheme is as follows:-

- Salaries and Wages	£15,223
- National Insurance	£ 1,980
- Travelling Expenses	£ 3,042
- Printing, stationery	£ 275
Postage, Publicity etc	
- Telephone	£ 385
- Insurance	£ 50
Total	£20,955

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEME

It is anticipated that the number of requests received for support to carers will increase as the existence of the Scheme becomes known to both the staff of statutory organisations and to carers themselves. Arrangements are now being made to publicise the Scheme to a wider audience in Salford.

To meet the anticipated increase in demand for the services provided by the scheme, will require additional staffing and subsequent funding. The following proposal suggests an incremental approach which would increase the number of Care Attendants hours to match anticipated demands upon the Scheme.

Care Attendants	Hours	Total Budget
(Weekly)		(£ p.a.)
1983/84 (Inner City Funding)	100	£21,000
1984/85	130	£27,000
1985/86	170	£35,000
1986/87	200	£40,000
1987/88	225	£45,000
1988/89	250	£50,000

These budget estimates do not include any allowance for inflation and are at 1983 prices. It is assumed that the hours of the Co-ordinator and the Clerical Assistant would need to increase in proportion to the number of Care Attendants employed, and similarly for the non-staff costs. It is assumed that during the next 2-3 years the scheme would expand at a faster rate than during the latter 2 years of this five year period.

The above proposal is on the basis of the existing Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme within Salford. It does not take into account any increased service demands which might arise as a result of the Health Authority's initiatives in response to the "Care in the Community" proposals. Further development funding might be required if the Crossroads Scheme was to become closely involved in such initiatives.

PROPOSAL

To enable the continuation and development of the work being undertaken by the Salford Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme in relieving stress on carers for disabled people, it is proposed that the Scheme be accepted for Joint Funding during the period 1984/85 to 1988/89.

October 1983

J. Mansfield,
SECRETARY

APPENDIX

Need for a Scheme in Salford

- Consultation with a variety of organisations from both the voluntary and statutory sector has established the need for a Scheme in Salford.
- The experience from the 50 schemes established throughout the country, which have all proved extremely successful, together with the research undertaken by the national organisation - the Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme Trust, support this view.
- The Department of Health and Social Security: "strongly supports the development of Crossroads Care Attendant Schemes" and regards them as "a humane, effective and comparatively low cost extension of domiciliary care services".
(Hansard - reply to a Parliamentary Question 9.11.79)
- Statistics provided by Salford Health Authority indicate the possible level of need to be in excess of 1,000:-

(a)	Population in Salford	266,000	All ages
(b)	Number of persons with some physical impairment (excluding vision and hearing defects and mental illness)	18,000	Adults
(c)	Number of persons included in (b) between 16-64 years	6,000	Adults
(d)	Number of persons included in (c) with a "severe" or 'very severe' degree of disability.	800	Adults
(e)	Number of persons included in (d) who are both severely physically and mentally handicapped	130	Adults
(f)	Number of children with some physical impairment	470	Children
(g)	Number of children included in (f) who are also severely mentally handicapped	90	Children

The Community Nursing Division of Salford Health Authority has identified 282 clients known to District Nurses or Health Visitors whose carer could benefit from a Crossroads Scheme. The main areas of need would appear to be in Swinton (54 possible clients) and Salford 7 and 8 (51 possible clients), but there are potential clients in all areas of the City.