

# Housing and Support Strategy Group for People with a Physical Disability, Sensory Disability, Acquired Brain Injury and Long Term Conditions

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

## Minutes

### PRESENT

LW (Chair) – Torbay Care Trust	CCa – Westcountry Housing
JD – Housing Links Coordinator	MP – Social Worker for the Sensory Team
LS – SP Client	PM (Minutes) - Supporting People Administration Assistant
LC – BSL Interpreter	SG – Disability Information Service
CC – BSL Interpreter	CT – Supporting People Communication and Information Officer
PF – Community Care Worker - Brixham	

### APOLOGIES

CJ – SP Client	JH – Affordable Housing Co-ordinator
AH – Community Occupational Therapist ABI Team	FK – HUB

<b>ITEM 1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
	LW welcomed everyone to the Meeting.	
<b>ITEM 2</b>	<b>Minutes &amp; Matters Arising</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP1 – Cleared</li> <li>• AP2 – Cleared</li> <li>• AP3 – Project Team is still ongoing LW will keep the group informed.</li> <li>• AP4 – Main Agenda Item</li> <li>• AP5 – Cleared</li> <li>• AP6 – Cleared</li> <li>• AP7 – Cleared</li> <li>• AP8 – Cleared</li> <li>• AP9 – SG advised that there were still Providers who do not have the correct knowledge of Benefits and are giving out incorrect information. LW advised at the moment a lot of the Supporting People (SP) Contracts are old ones so they are not as detailed as the new ones. As Contracts are renewed SP are stipulating what mandatory training must be done by Providers.</li> <li>• AP10 – Cleared</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP11 – Advised that they are looking at SP integrating with the Care Trust not sure how far this will go.</li> <li>• AP12 – LW advised that this was still ongoing</li> <li>• AP13 – Cleared</li> <li>• AP14 – Main Agenda Item</li> <li>• AP15 – Cleared</li> </ul>	
<b>ITEM 3</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Monitoring Report 2008/2009</b></p> <p>The Annual Report was circulated ahead of the Meeting. CT explained that 69% had moved on in a planned way from short term services but the target for this is 76%. There is an increase in the number of clients being taken on. They are equal proportions of male and female clients. The highest need relates to Mental Health and Alcohol problems CT confirmed that Physical Disability could be the primary or secondary need. There is a low number of black and minority ethnic (BME) clients but this is the same across all client groups. CCA raised the concerns from the SPLASH service because some clients are now getting close to the end of two years support. The SPLASH contract only allows support for two years. There is a need for long term accommodation and support for this client group. LW confirmed that she needs to speak to other people to decide how to take this forward. Also Dragons Tail have two short term flats and they are working on “Move On “but there is no available suitable housing to move them on to. There is a need to plan for this. JD is to visit staff at Dragons Tail to discuss this. People with Sensory Disabilities only have SPLASH or RNID there is a need to develop long term services. LW advised that she was writing an Employment Strategy with NH (Learning disability commissioner) and AR (Mental health commissioner) which will be presented to the Worklessness Forum. The aim is proactive help to get people into employment. LW said she would send out the headings for the Strategy with the Minutes from this Meeting and asked people to feedback any comments. SG advised that he was on one of the Groups looking in to this and that they were looking at what the barriers are for small employers to take on Disabled workers.</p>	<p><b>AP1 LW</b></p> <p><b>AP2 All</b></p>

<p><b>ITEM 4</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Housing Link Worker Update</b></p> <p>JD tabled her report at the Meeting. She explained that she was involved with several complex cases. Also regarding Devon Home Choice she stated that Riviera Housing Trust (RHT) had promised that they would let the Link workers have a list of the names of the people who had fallen off the list. There used to be 6,800 on the list and it is now down to 3,500. RHT have now said they do not think they can give them a list after all. The Link workers are sending a collective response to RHT and the different Strategy Groups are also writing to RHT about it .LW will do response on behalf of this Group. Also RHT had promised a large media profile campaign but this has not happened in Torbay. It has not been decided how the accessible housing register will work in practice in particular the assessment of the properties will not be done by Occupational Therapists (OT) but JD is trying to get an OT to do some training for the assessment officers. JD advised that she will be meeting with RC (Homefinder Co-ordinator) to ensure there is a consistent approach in Torbay.</p> <p>She advised that following the Review of the HUB Improvement Plans had been drafted and would be monitored. The HUB advised the delays on referrals was now with Providers saying yes or no to referrals. PM to contact the HUB about attending this meeting and also ask them to do an Agenda Item updating on where they are with referrals etc. SIFS (Social Inclusion Floating Support) are piloting prioritising HUB referrals based on urgent need not date order. JD will keep the group informed about this. If it is successful it may be rolled out.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">She is working with Sandwell</p> <p>Community Caring Trust who are looking to buy properties in the Torbay area, people’s benefits will then cover the cost of the mortgage. The Tenancy and Care needs to be kept separate as there are concerns that if they lose the Care Support the Client could then become homeless. Also JH is trying to see if they can buy some properties as affordable housing .JD will follow this up.</p>	<p><b>AP3 LW</b></p> <p><b>AP4 PM</b></p> <p><b>AP5 JD</b></p> <p><b>AP6 JD</b></p>
<p><b>ITEM 5</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Update on SP Mandatory Training for Providers</b></p> <p>Partly covered in minutes at Action Point 9. Also there is a possibility that if SP becomes part of Care Trust it may be possible to offer out some of the training available within the Care Trust. SITRA Training is very expensive CCa advised that Westcountry do a lot of their own training in house. Could possibly look into extending their training out to other Providers via the Providers’ Independent Forum.</p>	
<p><b>ITEM 7</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPLASH Back charging</b></p> <p>LW is to speak to MJ (Housing Accountant) about how to make</p>	

	<p>sure funds are transferred to Supporting People from LW. Also need to involve Westcountry in this as well. LW to email CCa and arrange this.</p>	<b>AP7 LW</b>
<b>ITEM 9</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Extra Care Housing</b></p> <p>People with Physical Disabilities may get some “Step Down Housing”. Looking to possible option of tagging on to Extra Care Housing but most of this is for the elderly.</p>	
<b>ITEM 8</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Deputy Chair</b></p> <p>SG volunteered to stand as Deputy Chair and was duly elected.</p>	
<b>ITEM 9</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Any Other Business – Transitions</b></p> <p>LW advised that they were concentrating on supporting young people moving into Adult Services. A draft protocol has been sent out. They have identified blockages and problems and now need to do something about it. Housing is a key area and they are gathering information to inform the housing needs survey. It should be a seamless transition from Children’s Services to Adult Services. FACS (Fair Access to Care) training is ongoing. They are trying to get funding for a Project Worker for next year to take this forward.</p>	
<b>ITEM 10</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dates for Future Meetings</b></p> <p>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – 10.00 to 12.00 – Cecil Room ,Oldway Mansion</p>	