

Carers Forum Minutes

16th June 2010 Ty Avow Room 1

Attendees

Bernard Roberts	Chair	BR
Celia Hart	Equalities Manager, WCBC	CH
Mark Jones	Head of Services PSNI/IL, WCBC	MJ
Stephen Baker	Planning & Commissioning, WCBC	SB
Kate Meredith	Training Officer, WCBC	KM
Audrey Roberts	Carer	AR
Jean Tomblin	Carer	JT
Jan Baker	Carer	JB
Ida Turley	Carer	IT
Sylvia Prankard	Carer	SP
John Parry	Carer	JP
Julie Lloyd	Carer	JL
Par Reed	Carer	PR
Marion Kelsall	AVOW, Minute taker/Carer	MK
Shirley Byrne	Carer	SB

1. Welcome

BR welcomed all to meeting and said that as this was Carers week a Forum Workshop had been organised with guest speaker Celia Hart the Equalities manager from WCBC. Prior to this Kate Meredith the Training Officer from WCBC wanted to say a few words.

KM just wanted to mention that the Care at Home work force study carried out by the Care Council for Wales about 18 months ago has been published and can be accessed on Google on the Care Council for Wales work site. The Summary alone is 24 pages so not possible to give everyone a copy. BR said that he would print a few copies off and anyone who wanted could read these.

2. Guest Speaker: Celia Hart WCBC

BR introduced Celia Hart who would speak to the group about her role in Wrexham County Borough Council. She began by stating that her role was to work across the whole county to meet legal required for equality strands. WCBC and other Public bodies are considering Carers in employment and WCBC have flexible hours to fit in with Carer's needs..

The County Councils consider 7 areas (strands) of equality. In Wrexham an additional strand has been added for Carers.

1. Age
2. Carers
3. Disability
4. Gender
5. Race
6. Religion/belief
7. Sexual orientation
8. Welsh Language and Culture

CH talked about employers having respect for the caring role and that Carers should be able to carry out that role with dignity and talked about High Court cases that had led to further amendments to the Discrimination Act which had led to a change to take place in October under the Equality Act 2010. Celia also spoke about what the Council were doing in relation to supporting Carers in their employ and how with the help of the Forum new policies would be introduced.

CH asked attendees to split into two groups and discuss and note down on flip chart paper the thoughts on the following:-.

- Pretend to be managers and discuss how you would help Carers in your employ.
- What should WCBC be doing to support carers in their employ.

The group had a long discussion and fed back their thoughts to Celia. These were noted and Celia said that it had been extremely useful and this would be considered in any future policies.

BR thanked Celia for attending and giving us an idea of her work.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and accepted.
BR passed the workshop details as requested in the minutes.

4 Any Other Business:

MJ: Work is still going ahead in the Carers Assessment form. The PS & I team are, where a carers assessment is necessary, trying to make more use of the questions on this form. SB is making use of them for carers on wider level Comments: Questions need grouping into themes to match the annual council reporting framework – trial to be carried more often including feedback to help with improvements in service plans (trial to include care). PS & I and review teams answers should be useful to pick up informal system to be quite effective. Questioners should pick up on themes through listening. Number of advantages: 1 person – as against lots.

MJ Carers should have contact at least once per year. It was noted that assessment forms should be entered onto computer otherwise they could not be used effectively.

5 Next Meeting:

The next Carers Forum Meeting will take place on 9th September 2010 in Ty Avow at 2pm.