

Notes from housing task group held at NYH 26/01/09

Present –

Anne Rivers – Foundation Housing,
Carl martin – foundation Housing,
Ruth Major – WWFT,
Maggie Boyes – Parent,
Steve Oldridge – Yorkshire Coast homes,
Rebecca Buckle – Person using services
Jenni Jones – A&CS supported Living,
Anna Nockles – A&CS Area manager,
Barry McNally – AVALON,
Jean Riley – Carers Rep,
Helen Chafer – Ryedale Housing Association,
Ruth Collin – A&CS Operations S/W/R,
Nicky everrett – A&CS CSO

Apologies –

Carol Armstrong – Supporting People Officer

Anna invited all present to make introductions.

Background

We heard how the Housing Task group as others linked to the LD Partnership Board and how the aims of Valuing People Now need to be understood and met by the task groups

(Copies of valuing People Now can be obtained through the department of health web site - www.orderline.dh.gov.uk and quoting 290565c/valuing People Now

We heard how the task group had been re formed after several months of being dormant and how we needed to ensure as many relevant people as possible were involved in the future.

work completed by the group had included a Service specification which involved a wide audience in it's completion including a rep from supporting People, the service spec had been welcomed and agreed by the Partnership Board, and can be a tool used as agreed standards and expectations of those people supported within our community.

Valuing People Now

We spent 10 minutes reading through handouts (see attached) the information taken from Valuing People Now “Improving people’s Housing situation” which is the work and guidance given from the government for all Local authorities to implement

Following this, through discussions we made the following comments,

- a) There are no local NHS campus's as people have previously resettled into more community settings within S/W/R a number within residential accommodation, for those people alternative accommodation in line with VPN could be found,
- b) The amounts of money noted that are to be made available from health, How are these to be spent? It was explained that this money would come into local authorities budgets in the future from Health and on occasion as a direct transfer when individuals are accommodated within communities
- c) Support we discussed how at times recruitment and retention is an issue for all providers of service and how possibly more support will be required as we move to more an individual housing choice for people.
- d) The Housing matrix produced and held by A&CS needs to be shared more widely with people involved in "Housing" so a clearer picture of need is highlighted and understood, it needs to include,
 - o Who,
 - o What is required,
 - o Needs and individual requirements,
 - o Time frame

The priorities presently in place by A&CS are

- ✚ Parent carer over 70 yrs,
- ✚ Individuals in transitions,
- ✚ Safety,
- ✚ Present area and accommodation,

- e) Housing providers may have accommodation but is it suitable?
- f) With vast waiting lists in place already, How do we move the agenda forward for those with Learning Difficulties
- g) Good outcomes required for all, we agreed the "mix and matching" process was extremely important if long term positive outcomes are to be realised

Working Together

We discussed the many different types of arrangements that can be accessed regarding housing including,

Private rental agreements, warden accommodation, supported living, housing associations, we agreed that some look to peoples future more than others do, so are seen as more secure. Opportunities are available for longer term letting and "Top Up" rental agreements can be available for some, We discussed how sometimes individuals can become more independent and experience choice for them selves when moving from a family environment to a housing opportunity that was to be there own. We said that support required by individuals needed to be clear and accurate from the start so that all involved were as prepared as possible to ensure all requirements were met and individuals where supported adequately.

The environment and area is said to be as important as the support required, so the community can support individuals within it, helping raise expectations and then realising the outcomes can be very rewarding for those involved. Government departments can have different priority ratings for housing people including people who are Homeless or people who have a mental illness; we discussed how we might as a group get the needs of people with Learning Disabilities higher on the agenda within the authority in our local area.

We agreed to include the following

- ✚ To produce a Protocol to show “WHO” and “WHY” individuals are a priority,
- ✚ The housing matrix to be up dated with names removed so it can be used by housing providers to allocate when opportunities come up and to plan for future needs
- ✚ Clear Care plans detailing “Needs” and any/all support packages that are required to be in place,
- ✚ Contact to be made with Andrew Rowe at the town Hall and Richard Adamson local authority Housing Officer to open discussions there on behalf of the Task group with an aim to get Learning Disabilities on the council’s strategy plan.
- ✚ Contact to be made with Kim Robertshaw (SBC) and Richard Ethrington (RDC) to raise awareness of need for local action

Challenges

We discussed several issues that challenge the way forward presently

- ✚ Supporting People Grants that have been available are reducing, a 10%reduction next financial year is expected as this funding is re-allocated and absorbed into other funding
- ✚ Tendering arrangements difficult if individuals want to share accommodation,
- ✚ Direct payments and individualised budgets can cause concern and great anxiety for individuals and there families, who takes over when parent no longer able to facilitate requirements
- ✚ Mental capacity and battle with mortgage lenders,
- ✚ Housing benefit/income support and difficulties in obtaining what is seen as essential requirements for individuals is a battle in relation to housing,
- ✚ Family home/non commercial setting and difficulties in obtaining housing benefits for individuals concerned,
- ✚ Understanding and support for parents found to be lacking regarding brokerage, direct payments and individualised budgets, awareness training required,
- ✚ Ever changing needs of individuals,

Thinking for the Future

We agreed that people involved in the Task group need to include people with Learning Disabilities, those with associated skills and knowledge in the housing field as well as those who can represent individuals with Learning disabilities in some way, professionals, parent/carers and service providers.

We discussed the positives that increased choice for individuals can and does bring and the rights that people have to be included, we said that A&CS “extra care” housing schemes within the area in the future would be developed in an Inclusive way, so promoting inclusion for all, including young adults with learning disabilities and more complex needs.

Whitby is said to be an area that requires further accommodation as extremely limited at present, Ryedale and Scarborough are said to have opportunities presently, lots of rented accommodation available for longer term letting and landlords have been and are happy to negotiate rents if approached by Housing organisations/associations, as a more guaranteed rent is then available to them

We were informed of some Partnership working agreements that had successfully housed several adults locally who although housed within their own accommodation/flats helped each other with support.

We were informed In 2010 their will be opportunity for people as long as eligible to bid for housing that is available from an advertised list, we agreed people need to know and understand this process so they don't miss opportunities that may be available to them

Actions

- 1) We agreed to meet every three months,
- 2) Housing Matrix to be up dated and personal details removed so use by housing providers enabled – **N Everett**
- 3) Contact to be made with R Adamson and Andrew Rowe – **A Nockles**
- 4) Contact to be made with Kim Robertson and Richard Ethrington – **A Nockles**
- 5) To produce a priority protocol - **Task group**

Next meeting 27th April 2 pm @ NYH