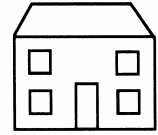




Scarborough, Whitby & Ryedale Partnership Board



Housing Task Group Minutes 28th September 2009 North Yorkshire House

Who was there?

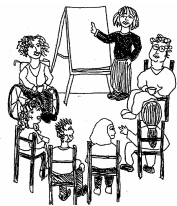
Rebecca Buckle,
Anna Nockles,
Avril Hunter,
Steven Peacock,
Bronia Hawkins,
Helen Fortnum,
Damian Jackson,
Russell Brooks,

Who could not come?

J Riley,
J Jones,

Anna welcomed people to the meeting.

Notes from the last meeting were available and people were invited to take a copy. The notes included the presentation on “Eight ways to get a house” which Steve Harrison from Housing Options had presented.



Avril Hunter introduced herself. Her job role is a “Commissioning Manager” for Adult and Community Services. Anna had invited Avril to tell us about the work she is involved with connected to housing.

We introduced ourselves to Avril.

Avril explained some of the strategies that are in place to help with Housing and showed us some of the places we can find out more.

Avril will send a hand out to Anna to attach to these notes with this information. Avril explained that the documents and strategies told us that all people should have a choice within their community and where they live. Housing Departments in

the Borough Council and the District Councils are working together and are responsible to ensure that housing for all, including those people with a learning disability is “Inclusive” and available.

Anna spoke about how on occasion housing did become available but it was difficult to match the support required with the timescale of when the house was ready. Bronia added that as people’s needs changed it has proved difficult for the Housing Association to alter and adapt the house to suit the people’s needs.

We agreed that people being compatible should be one of the main key points to address prior to agreements with shared housing arrangements.

Damien told us that in the future he would like to live in a flat in the community with a partner, and where he lived now was OK.

Bronia commented that there seems to be a different expectation for people with a mental health need than for those with a learning disability, and the housing that is identified for people with a learning disability almost tries to mimic a family arrangement where this is not the case with other groups.

QUIZ TIME



Avril told us about a survey she had done recently that asked local people with a learning disability in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale about what kind of living arrangement they had.

Avril and Anna asked us to guess the numbers for each of the types of housing. Avril had brought a “chocolate orange” with her as a prize for who ever guessed the closest. We also asked the people at the meeting where they lived and those answers are in **RED**.

129 people where asked what kind of living arrangement they lived in:

Where people live

Answers

Answers from
those at the meeting

Care Home	37	0
Tenant	7	1
Family or friend	51	0
Supported accommodation	28	1
Adult Placement	6	1
Owner	0	7
Extra Care	0	0

Russell guessed the nearest answer and won the prize and gave it to Damien as he was not keen on chocolate.

Avril told us that North Yorkshire County Council and District Councils are all working towards improving housing in their areas for everybody.

Only 1% of people with a Learning Disability across North Yorkshire own their own home and the quiz helped to show this.

Lots of people still live with family and friends or in Residential Care Homes. We spoke about the anxieties parents have when their children are moving away from home and how by showing some good positive examples people may not worry as much.

Avril and Bronia told us about “Life Long Homes” and the way they are designed and built so future needs are part of the original planning. These include things to help people as they get older:

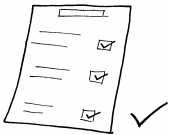
- Wider door ways and halls so a wheelchair can access them,
- Light switches/plug sockets that are easy to reach,
- Easy access to outside,
- Showering /bathing facilities that are easy to access

We spoke about the ways we can help support people to live as independently as possible and also remain safe. The use of “Telecare” that can help.

We spoke about Personnel budgets and how this could give further choice to who we ask to support people living in the

community.

Rebecca told us about her experiences living at “Wills Court” which is a self contained flat in Scarborough so she can have her own private space and chooses what she does so is as independent as possible. Rebecca told us that her flat is within a block of flats where other people who need support live so she has company when she wants it.



What do we need to do now?

- Speak to District Councils and forge a link with them and tell them housing options need to be improved and that we need more inclusive choice within the community,
- Look at the Housing matrix and up date the information held there,
- Ask the housing forum if reps from the housing task group can show them the presentation they did at the Partnership board,
- Look at how we can make it easier for people to own their own homes,
- Use the quiz at a partnership board to raise awareness.
- Work together to detail an action plan at next meeting.



Anna explained that the Housing Task Group needed a Co – Chair, which Rebecca had volunteered for. The group supported this.



Next meeting 30th November 2.00 – 4.00 pm at North Yorkshire House.