

**Housing sub group  
Platt Bridge Community Zone  
2009  
19<sup>th</sup> Oct 09**



**Present:** Steve Sargent (chair),  
Paula Daley - HODW  
Hayley Walton - WALH  
Joanne Williams - Health  
Julie McGregor - SP  
Dave Pierce - WALH

**Apologies:** Gill Whittle, Ruth Newsham, Lesley Teasdale, Julie Smith, Alison Perry, Jim Barton.

**Minutes of last meeting/matters arising:**

**Wigan Housing Solutions:** they will work with any Landlord not only accredited landlords, its only if the council lease the property they need to be accredited so we can ensure the council is leasing property of a certain standard.

Also associated with this, ie supply of housing, the council has initiatives to bring empty homes back into use, particularly where empty property is causing problems. Currently this is in the form of grants to home owners. A new funding stream from Homes and Communities Agency, the Temporary Social Housing Grant', is an additional resource that can also help with this. This could be a way to bring bungalows that need refurbishment and adaptations into use and let through WHS.

**Mental Capacity Act**

**Learning Disability Housing Strategy** unfortunately has a page missing from the action plan! At the launch the missing page was printed off and added in as a loose sheet but this isn't satisfactory. The cost of reprinting one page is £66. Agreed we should just pay this so it is then done.

**HOLD:** this is extending beyond people with Learning Disabilities, we have had two referrals both people with a physical disability, one is also under occupying a WALH house. Great Places have allocated all 16 of their HOLD allocation to Wigan so it is important if we are going to use all this funding that we extend beyond people with Learning Disabilities.

**Adult Services:** Steve has met with Sharon Eid and Bridget Hollingsworth to look at opportunities for permanent funding for the housing development role. Also discussed how to plan ahead for people with learning disabilities in the borough who already have support packages but have accommodation that is

not going to meet their needs long term. Agreed that comprehensive care plans need to be drawn up with each person in this position and this is likely to need dedicated resources. Steve has had some contact with a potential housing partner who would redevelop sites where housing is not up to standard to provide future housing that better meets people needs.

### **Agenda**

1. Reviewed the LDHS action plan: the agenda of the meeting was based on reviewing progress on the priority targets in the LDHS

Information and advice – the Understanding Housing event needs to run again as there are new social workers in post and this should also extend to health staff and transition workers. The Basic Certificate in Housing Options also needs to be re-run, SP have a fund for health and well-being, this training may meet their criteria, Julie will forward the details to Paula.

Local Housing Allowance:

The validity of this challenged as being discriminatory. Diversity Impact Assessment should have shown that it discriminates against people who needs two bedrooms because of support needs. Paula to find out what progress has been made. Use of the leasing scheme helps us to get round this where a landlord is willing to lease their property to WHS.

SAS review:

No progress has been made, this needs to done in partnership, if not led, by adult services.

Feasibility of project for people with learning disabilities and dementia.

There is a possibility of being able to extend extra care schemes such as Eliot gardens to accommodate people the learning disability and dementia, but demand needs to be determined. Expected number of people with dementia is high but we need to know whether an extra care model will meet peoples needs. Paula to meet with Claire Wilmott, Dementia LD nurse, to work out a plan around this priority target.

Assistive Technology

Emergency Night Support is a new service being piloted for 12 months through SP funding. It comprises of a mobile response team who have hoisting equipment. Further details are available from

Housing Options Development Worker

There is the demand for this role to naturally expand to incorporate other client groups, especially through HOLD, but also LD Service Manager, Bridget Hollingsworth now also has responsibility for other client groups so similarly logical in searching for alternative long term funding to extend beyond Learning Disabilities.

Out of Borough Placements

All Social Workers have to review out of borough placements each year, statutory review. This review form includes a question about plans to return to borough. Team Leaders should be able to collate this information.

2. AOB

Future meetings 2010: Weds Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 1-3, Thur April 8<sup>th</sup>, Weds 9<sup>th</sup> June 1-3, subject to other sub group members agreement.

**Next Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009, Community Zone, Platt Bridge