

Shared Lives Cymru

Committee Meeting at Llandrindod Wells 7th April 2014

Present: Richard Springett - Chair (WWAPS), Lisa Burnett (Ategi), Rachel Anderson (Ategi), Miriam Merkova (Shared Lives Plus Wales Development Worker), Jane Billings (Vale of Glam), Caroline Hosgood (Neath), Selwyn Jones (Gwynedd), Regine Robertson – Vice-Chair (WWAPS/Wales Carer Representative), Richard Gwynn – Minutes (Powys), Jan Evans (WWAPS), Claire George (WWAPS)

Apologies: Martin Thomas (SEWAPS), Tim Southern – Chair and Welsh Rep of UK Board (Ategi), Marilyn Floyd (Neath), Nia Walters (Swansea)

Minutes of the meeting on 24th February 2014, agreed as accurate

Matters Arising from last meeting:

Digital Stories – Miriam updated that she has a number of service Users and SL Carers who have volunteered to participate in filming. Currently awaiting confirmation of dates. Miriam is hoping to complete the filming by the 19th of May.

SCIF – No date has been fixed yet for an overarching meeting of the Learning and Development Group. A functional analysis of qualifications of scheme workers is planned.

Jan has agreed to be the lead person for the SL Cymru Committee with regard to the CCW.

Welsh Language Scheme – The Welsh Language Scheme has been signed off by the Welsh Development Office.

Income Support – Richard will distribute information about a recent Income Support judgement.

Minutes – Minutes of this meeting will be placed in the members only section of the SL+ website.

Agenda

Business Case – The Business case is nearing completion. Figures have been provided for 3 case studies with cost comparisons with supported tenancies/residential services. Currently awaiting comms to add graphics for publishing.

CCW Qualification Framework – Pilots are ongoing with 8 Carers in West Wales, 5 in the Vale, 2 with ategi and a number in SE Wales and Gwyneth. Jan reported a problem in West Wales with the registration process. Carers are required to undertake a comprehension and

maths test in person at the college which due to the distances involved can be difficult. The Carers have 1 year from registering to complete the qualification and have to pay for a second year if they don't compete in time.

Seminar – The Minister has agreed to be involved in the event and a provisional date of the 25th of September has been set. There will be no fee for the event. It has been proposed that a Cardiff location be used with the Welsh Assembly offices being a possible venue. Richard S will be the lead interim until new Development Worker in post.

Conference – The group discussed a Welsh conference and agreed in principal to an event. The group agreed to explore the possibility of a conference next year.

Establish an E-mail Discussion Between SL Carers – Regina asked for Schemes to send her the e-mail addresses of SL Carers. Schemes will need to confirm that SL Carers are happy to have their details shared. Regina reported that she had had a few telephone conference calls and calls from Carers over the past month. She reported that a few Carers had said they were worried that if they raised concerns they wouldn't receive any referrals. There was also a feeling that some Schemes didn't consult fully with Carers regarding pay or terms and conditions. The main concerns raised were about feeling uninformed/out of the loop.

Carers Events – Venues have now been booked in the North and South. In the North the venue will be Bangor Uni and in the South the Future Inn. The invited speakers will be split rather than asking them to attend both events. The focus of events will be on why Carers should be involved. Representatives from the CAB will be presenting as will Alex and Anna who will be speaking about SL+. Service users are welcome. The group discussed specific activities, breakaway rooms but felt that this could dilute the events.

Welsh Development Officer

Newsletter – The newsletter was a little shorter this time as there wasn't so many stories. It was fed back the Income Support article could have been more prominent. Miriam said that she was not convinced that the distribution of the newsletter was consistent across the country.

Activity Data – Miriam has sent out an e-mail to all schemes requesting data relating to scheme activity and is awaiting responses. Miriam stressed that it was very important to get information from all schemes so the data could be compared year on year.

Officer Position – Miriam has given notice of her position and will be finishing on the 16th of May. The group expressed their gratitude for the work that Miriam had undertaken over the past two years and their sadness at her departure. Miriam's post will be advertised next week and there is activity taking place to extend the position. A meeting will be held with the Big Lottery Fund and WAG to discuss the commitment from SL+ to the extension of the post.

SE Wales – Miriam will be meeting with the SE Wales carers group to discuss SL+ and membership of the organisation.

Wrexham – Miriam has met with the OP team to Wrexham to discuss the possibility of developing a scheme in the area. They are interested at the moment in the potential of SL.

Any Other Business

Minute Taking – The group discussed the minute taking rota. It was agreed that Richard would E-mail a request for a volunteer to take the minutes. In the event of no-one volunteering the group would stick to the rota with an option to negotiate if a member felt that they were unable to complete the task on the day.

Next meeting : 7/7/14