

Notes from learning disability provider's session on
Self Directed Support
Community Living network
17th July 2008

WHAT NEEDS MORE ATTENTION?

- 1) Its time to look at what we *can* do to adapt and get ahead of the game.
- 2) We need to unpack the idea “being big and acting small”. What does it look like, how do we get there?
- 3) We want to know about what experiments other people are contemplating and work out how we learn from each other.
- 4) We need to work out how to unpick shared support, sleep in costs etc
- 5) We need to check back on whether PCP is robust enough. “Use it as an organisational tool before you use it on people”.
- 6) We need to figure out how to do SDS for people who don't have circles.
- 7) We need to focus on retention and figure out how to improve that for the people we support and across organisations. It will mean using PCA with staff.
- 8) Recruitment and matching – how do you get it right?
- 9) What can we collectively invest in? Brokerage? Facilitators?

WHAT RESOURCES DO WE HAVE / NEED?

- a) The network has established 10 blogs including best practice in care & support and www.self-directed-services.co.uk
- b) We can post ideas about “what we are going to do” to the website.
- c) Good connections and talking weekly. Build your own networks.
- d) Start putting families in touch.
- e) Work with people first to get up a head of steam.
- f) Build brokerage.
- g) Tap into PCP network. Each has a PCOP network – tap into those.
- h) Think more about NVQs & whether they are making a difference.

MESSAGES FOR WAG.

- We heard from an organisation that is running ISFs. Families in the room identified with this as being what families want.
- We need to avoid moving forward with ideas without the people who are affected by them directly at our side.
- People first manifesto commits to SDS. They have made it clear what they want.
- There is a Welsh commitment now in learning disability providers to making it happen but no Welsh strategy.

- Looking to England isn't reasonable because we in Wales won't do exactly the same. Give us more leadership and water through the sluice.
- We could avoid a postcode lottery with WAGs support to achieve a coordinated approach across Wales.
- We learned that there are some poor examples of implementation of SDS in England, but that isn't a reason for not doing it.
- We have a track record in Wales for balancing safety with empowerment.
- If looking a 1/91 you might as well think about SDS at the same time.
- We need to think about the assembly's commitment to citizenship. The existing way of doing things is disempowering.
- In Control Cymru have produced a paper that's sets SDS in a Welsh policy context. It creates more transparency around money. The public value will be greater because public money is more transparently linked to achieving outcomes.
- It's not about privatisation it's about citizenship.
- People are having better, fulfilled quality lives as a consequence.
- The practical steps to implementation are not complex. Wee learned about many of those and feel ready to progress.