

TAMESIDE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF A PROVIDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2001

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the proceedings of the previous meeting held on 2nd October 2001 were approved as a correct record.

2. Mental Health Awareness Training

Ms Ros Whysall, MHA Training Project Co-ordinator at MIND, explained the circumstances surrounding the setting up of the project and her role. She stated that the project was a joint funding initiative between Social Services and the Health Trust to train volunteer ex/current service users or people who have experienced mental ill health to become trainers in mental health awareness. The service will commence in Spring 2002. It was acknowledged that current training for the wider community was either non-existent or limited. It was hoped that by using people who have experienced mental illness, the level of knowledge and confidence in the community can be raised and stereotypes and prejudices tackled.

An objective of the Tameside CLSP Strategic Plan was to deliver mental health awareness training to a range of information and advice providers. Michelle Brennan agreed to contact Ros Whysall to discuss the setting up of training sessions.

3. Partnership Innovation Budget

Providers received a update on the progress of the two projects as follows:

Mental Health Debt and Money Advice Workers

Elizabeth Simpson was in the process of producing job descriptions and specifications and a work programme. A meeting involving users and providers of mental health services had been arranged for 16th January to discuss the aims and objectives of the project.

Welfare Benefits Take Up Project

A successful pilot had been running since August 2001 and 3 people have been recruited to start work in January 2002 to continue the project.

4. Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme

Michelle Brennan reported on the bid from Tameside to participate in the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme pilot project which was due to commence in the New Year. This would mean that anyone who attends court

for repossession proceedings for rent or mortgage arrears would receive legal advice regardless of their income. Michelle Brennan asked providers to continue to promote the scheme already established in Tameside.

5. Survey of Welfare Benefits Advice Provision

A pro forma had been circulated in advance of the meeting for providers to complete and Alan Franco requested providers to return any outstanding forms.

6. Beacon Council Bid

Alan Franco explained that the partnership had recently been shortlisted following its bid under the Beacon Council Scheme for Community Legal Service. An assessment team from the DTLR would be visiting Tameside on 14th January and providers would be asked to contribute to an exhibition of work which is being carried out in Tameside.

7. Service Update

Alan Franco stated that this item would appear on all future agendas to provide an opportunity for providers to inform the network of any service developments or initiatives.

Pietro Bonaminio informed the meeting of the work of the Information Shop for Young People. He referred to the newly established young people's health clinic in Ashton running sessions on a Monday and Thursday. The service was also in the process of bidding for resources to develop its services. A one year contract with the Social Services Department to provide help and support for young people leaving the care of the authority was now in place. Since April 2001 a full time volunteer development worker had been working with a range of voluntary and community organisations on the development of community capacity building skills.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Provider Network will be held on Tuesday 12th March 2002 commencing at 2.30 pm.