

TAMESIDE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF A PROVIDER GROUP MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH JUNE 2002

Present:	Pam Tweedie	-	Dial Tameside
	Julia Bentley	-	Trading Standards & Consumer Services, TMBC
	Roger Thompson	-	Welfare Rights Service, TMBC
	Alan Franco	-	CLS Co-ordinator, TMBC
	Michelle Brennan	-	Planning & Partnership Consultant, LSC
	Linda Walker	-	Partnership Secretary, TMBC
	Chris Clover	-	Training & Dev Officer, TMBC
	Steve Keeling	-	Legal Services Commission
	Trish Deaville	-	Pluck Andrew & Co Solicitors
Apologies:	Jim Gourley	-	Ashton and District MENCAP
	Diana Johnson	-	Probation Service
	Judith Burrows	-	Tameside Magistrates Court
	Andrew Shanahan	-	Beevers Solicitors
	Ahmed Ali	-	TREC
	Annette Goodfellow	-	Tameside CAB
	Steve Moss	-	NCHT
	Elizabeth Simpson	-	Welfare Rights Service, TMBC
	Ruth Cheesbrough	-	Welfare Rights Service, TMBC
	Ahmed Ali	-	TREC

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd April 2002 were agreed as a correct record.

2. SOUTH MANCHESTER RACE DISCRIMINATION SERVICE

It was agreed to defer this item for consideration at the next Provider Group meeting.

3. PARTNERSHIP INNOVATION BUDGET PROJECTS

(a) Older People's Benefit Take-up

Alan Franco distributed a cumulative summary of the project's outcomes which had been running since January 2002. It was noted that the project had made a great start and a substantial number of visits to clients had been made. Alan stated that the cash value of successful claims for benefit were based on returns direct from the Department of Work and Pensions. A review meeting of those involved in the scheme and other agencies would be scheduled for September details of which would be circulated nearer the time.

(b) Mental Health and Debt Advice

Alan Franco reported that a number of staff had recently been appointed and would shortly be taking up their posts. The project co-ordinator, Elizabeth Simpson, was in the process of setting up a consultation meeting for agencies involved with people mental health difficulties and would be circulating details in due course.

(c) Future Projects

Michelle Brennan informed the meeting that consultation regarding round two of the PIB had begun. The consultation document could be found at www.legalservices.gov.uk or requested from the Planning and Partnership Team at the Legal Services Commission. The bidding process for the PIB would be similar to that of last year. Michelle stated that there was a proposal to change its name to Partnership Initiative Budget with a focus on projects around community education and prevention and access to services for excluded groups. At present there had been no timetable published but it was likely that the deadline for the submission of bids would be some time in the Autumn. The deadline for comments to the LCD on the consultation document was 24th July 2002.

4. REVIEW OF REFERRAL SCHEME

Michelle Brennan stated that the referral scheme had been operational since September 2000. The number of returns that had been received was disappointing. From discussions it would appear that referral was taking place but not being recorded. Michelle circulated an amended protocol and pointed out the main changes. Providers agreed to the revisions and it was agreed that the revised forms should be sent out to all providers with a covering letter.

5. CONSUMER SUPPORT NETWORK

Julia Bentley, Consumer Advice Service, updated the meeting on the progress of the Consumer Support Network. Two seminars had recently been held to which members of the public had been invited to attend to ask them questions about their understanding of the Consumer Advice Service.

6. REVIEW OF SELF HELP PACKS (DEBT ADVICE)

It was agreed to defer discussion of this item to the next meeting of the Provider Network.

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

Alan Franco reported that the Tameside CLSP was planning to produce its second annual report in October and it was planned to include information from a range of providers about their activities in the last financial year (ended

31st March 2002). Alan and Michelle would be contacting organisations to ask for information about the number of clients seen and outcomes.

8. BEACON COUNCIL BID

Alan Franco reported that the Council had been successful in obtaining Beacon status for the Community Legal Service theme this year and was now looking to holding events to disseminate good practice. The local launch event for this would probably be in October 2002 and would include a number of workshops and exhibitions. A meeting had been arranged in Liverpool with the other 7 local authorities who had also been successful under this theme to make plans for a Beacon Showcase event to be held in London on 17th July.

9. POTENTIAL OUTREACH VENUES

Michelle reported that the Strategic Plan had identified a number of outreach locations which required review. These included Broadbottom, Hattersley, Mottram, Hollingworth and Haughton Green. It was noted that the Council's Exchequer and Customer Services was presently delivering outreach services in Hattersley and Mottram. It was agreed that Alan and Michelle hold discussions with Exchequer and Customer Service to ascertain their future plans for outreach services.

Trish Deaville, Pluck Andrew & Co Solicitors, reported on the take up at the legal advice sessions taking place at new venues. She stated that up take was very disappointing but that they would be continuing the sessions in the hope that the situation would improve.

10. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING

Chris Clover reported that following a presentation by Ros Whysall, Training Project Co-ordinator, MIND, at the Provider Network meeting in December 2001, arrangements had been made for MIND to provide two mental health awareness training sessions. These sessions would take place on 17th and 31st July 2002 at the Council Offices in Ashton-under-Lyne. Places would be limited to a maximum of 15 at each session and would be allocated on a first come first served basis. A letter together with a booking form and the aims and objectives of the course would be circulated to members of the Steering Group, Funders' Group and Provider Group as soon as possible.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that future meetings of the Provider Group would be held on the following dates:

Thursday 12th September 2002
Tuesday 3rd December 2002
Tuesday 11th March 2003
Wednesday 11th June 2003