

Supporting People - mapping supply

Supporting People is the programme that the Government is developing in order to remove the hurdles of complex and overlapping funding streams for providing support services to vulnerable people. The aim of Supporting People is to ensure that services are available to those who need them regardless of where they live.

The aims are: 'To assess, plan and review housing related support services with a view to promoting good quality services that meet the support needs of vulnerable people.' Supporting People will go live in April 2003. Before this goes online Local Authorities have to complete interim processes.

One of which is 'Supply Mapping', local authorities have sent out SP1 and SP2 forms to service providers in order to carry this out. If you are a provider and haven't received one of these forms then please contact your local authority. (details below). Mapping supply is the first task of the exercises which will identify the size of both the local and national 'pot'.

Action Points for Providers:

- Return completed forms promptly to the issuing authority
- Are all your services are included on

the supply map of the relevant authority?

■ Ensure you are aware of the Interim Guidance on Supporting People.

Providers should look at the Interim Guidance in order to see what local authorities are doing and why. Copies of which can be downloaded from www.spkweb.org.uk. There is also a short guide for providers from the DTLR. If you want a copy of this you can contact VHG.

DTLR is currently developing an additional form SP3 which will provide further information to local authorities on the current funding levels of schemes and referral sources. The SP3 will complete the supply mapping exercise.

Norfolk's Supporting People Lead Officers are concerned about small providers who may have already decided to opt out of the process of applying for THB and being involved in the build up of supporting people. They want to ensure that this is a real choice based on sound information and not just avoidance of perceived bureaucracy. VHG, in co-operation with the Lead Officers, is currently planning ways in which such providers can be better informed and supported.

Emma Daniel, VHG.

Local Authority Supporting People Contacts:

Suffolk Supporting People Team, St. Paul House, County Hall, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Jayne Hellowell, Supporting People Manager 01473 583401 John Lambert, Supporting People Officer (Supply Mapping) 01473 583399

West Norfolk Lorraine Douglas, Supporting People Officer, West Norfolk Borough Council 01553 616737

Norfolk Supporting People Lead Officers: Chris Greenhill, chris.greenhill@socs@norfolk.gov.uk Diane Gilbert 01603 212908 dianegilbert@norwich.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire Supporting People Project Team, Geoff Moore, Supporting People Project Manager 01480 375478 Helen Bryant, Supporting People Administrator 01480 375361

Holding hands for mental health



King's Lynn & District MIND arranged an event on 10 October for World Mental Health Day. 1000 people held hands around King's Lynn town centre. Emma Daniel joined the chain to show VHG's support. In spite of the very windy conditions Mick Ford, Chief Executive of King's Lynn MIND managed to set free all the balloons. It was an effective way to raise awareness as shoppers and those working in the centre were invited to join in. Mick Ford told us: "The primary aim of the day was not to

raise money but about getting people to be aware of the services on offer in the mental health field and in particular in West Norfolk". The Mayor also attended to lend his support to the event.

Sponsorship money and donations are still rolling in but this event has already raised over £1000. This money benefits four local charities: King's Lynn & District MIND, EAST, Tapping House, and Forward. King's Lynn and District MIND are committed to doing it again next year.

Newsinbrief

Managing Inclusion Series

The first in VHG's Managing Inclusion Series will be on December 11th 2001 in Norwich. It is 'Housing Drug Users: Assimilating Reality into Policy and Practice'. The keynote speakers are Liz Harper of St. Mungo's, Kevin Flemen of Release Inclusion and Simon Floyd of Norcas. This one day conference costs £60 to VHG members. For a brochure and further details please telephone Emma Daniel on 01603 617299.

Happy 10th Birthday M.A.P!

M.A.P. (the Mancroft Advice Project) who were included in the R.S.U.'s Good Practice Handbook are celebrating their 10th birthday on 25th November 2001. M.A.P. provides free and independent advice and counselling to young people aged 11 - 25.

Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion 2000

This is the third edition of this study by M. Rahman, G. Palmer, P. Kenway and C. Howarth. It is published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and is priced £16.95. The trends indicated in this report for young adults show that whilst most indicators have remained steady over the latest year, problem drug use (ages 15-24) has worsened. On the other hand the rates of young adults in work, training or education has improved.

VHG going live...!

VHG's website address is www.vhg-east.org. Please log on and let us know what you think. There is a forum for members to share ideas and network directly.

Sustainable Funding Project

This project has been launch by NCVO and provides a website for charities that want to find out about earning independent income. The address is www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp alternatively you can telephone the helpline for hard copies of the information on 0800 2 798 798.

Newsinbrief

Norwich to Namibia

Francis Andrews, resident of St. Edmund's hostel, recently spent 10 weeks in Namibia with Operation Raleigh along with 120 other venturers from all over the world. They spent their time trekking, building game hides and elephant water points. In itself Francis's trip was adventurous but it was doubly so for him as it was not only his first trip abroad but his first trip out of Norfolk.

Lorraine Bliss, Manager of St. Edmund's, told me about the enormous amount of hard work and effort Francis put into preparing for the trip. "Fran's achieved a lot since coming to St. Edmund's. He lacked confidence initially but we have provided

him with a home and encouragement. Although nobody should underestimate the effort Fran has put since coming here eighteen months ago."

Francis raised the money for his trip by researching and writing to organisations and by organising a sponsored bike ride. He raised £800 in three weeks. After some hefty injections, beginning a course of malaria tablets and, buying outdoor equipment Francis was ready for Africa.

I asked him what the highlight of this trip and he told me it was the trekking despite the fact that they almost ran out of food for the last three days of the trek and had to subsist on porridge and water from the river. The spirit of adventure was certainly bitten Francis and he is now working on his next project which is raising £3,500 to spend three months in Nepal with World Challenge.

Emma Daniel, VHG



Above: Fran taking a rest from the afternoon heat
Left: Enjoying Namibian hospitality
Bottom: The completed game hide built by the Operation Raleigh Team.



Reap the benefits of Membership

We welcome new Members and you should find an Application Form inside this magazine that we hope you will use.

Beside the benefits listed in the form I hope you will agree that this magazine alone is an excellent medium for promoting the work of the sector. This is one very visible way in which we represent the interests of Members but it represents perhaps 10% of the business of representation and social advocacy undertaken by our staff. If you or your organisation are interested in the benefits of Membership then please talk to Emma Daniel, our Member Services Co-ordinator or myself.

We will be happy to convince you that this organisation is worth joining in terms of its current services, its future potential and the culture of friendly local networking and support. The Manager of one hostel who is new to this client group said that she never felt in anyway uncomfortable asking VHG staff what she considered very basic questions that showed her ignorance. She told me she had always received friendly supportive help and advice. This is gratifying to hear because this is exactly what we hope our customers find. In renewing your membership or joining us for the first time I hope you will experience this level of friendly support. Ann Beattie, VHG.

Norwich Speakout

Speakouts were developed by the Groundswell organisation to enable homeless and ex-homeless to be heard and to directly influence the people who make decisions that affect their lives.

The Norwich Speakout was organised by The Big Issue Foundation on Tuesday 16th October at the Pottergate ARC. The Speakout involed having a panel of representatives from relevant organisations in the homeless field who presented their backgrounds to us and then answered questions from the healthy number of participants who attended.

It was a lively day with everyone taking part and discussing some exciting, relevant and at times surprising issues, generally based around homelessness.

The discussion itself was recorded so

that we can draw conclusions from the day and report back to the relevant parties to ensure that the Speakout has some teeth.

The key message behind it all is that homeless people, in fact all people are part of the solution not the problem. This was the first Speakout we have organised and we are hoping to make it an annual event. If you would like to be involved in the next one or would like an in-depth write up of the day please contact The Big Issue on 01603 613865.

Sally Fox, The Big Issue Foundation



Comment

The lead article of this month's Raising the Roof is Supporting People. I am sure that your reaction to this will either be one of scanning it to check whether there is anything for you to learn or ignoring it because you have decided not to engage with the process and are sick to the back teeth with it! If it is the first and you are in the fortunate position of having dedicated staff who are experts who know all there is to know on the subject bear with us. According to all our sources locally and nationally many people are still not engaged with the process or are making fundamental errors.

The VHG workshops planned in the spring of this year have now finished and we are in the process of planning events for late January/February to further develop knowledge in any aspect of Supporting People brought to our attention by our Members or local authority partners.

It has been encouraging to see the level of support Members give each other at events and I would certainly list this informal support as one of the key benefits of Membership of VHG. In the context of Supporting People I think it is crucial that we share expertise and knowledge wherever possible. The various projects within VHG organisations are not generally in direct competition with each other and the failure to fund one scheme will only create further pressures on other services dealing with the same client group. The aim of VHG with regard to Supporting People is to enable as many projects as possible to come safely through the process without any adverse impact on services to the vulnerable people you serve. Hopefully no matter how stressful staff may find this time the person in need of support will not notice any change.

From the Editor

Our AGM has now passed and the Re-launch events will be finishing as you receive this magazine. VHG's focus for a few weeks will be your response to the new terms and conditions of Membership. The new Membership Year runs from January to February so in effect Members who renew will have had nine months of free services. Even with the increase in fees I am convinced that this is a bargain offer! Fees have remained unchanged for at least four years according to VHG's Articles of Association and form only a small proportion of the resources required to run VHG.

If you do nothing else for VHG then please tell us if you like 'Raising the Roof'. Tell us if you would like to have several copies. Show it to staff and clients and let us know what they think. Send Emma Daniel article ideas for future editions. We intend to promote your work in a variety of ways - but this magazine is to be a vital part of that process. Let us help you by contributing your news and views.
Ann Beattie, VHG.

Training Dates

WORKING SUCCESSFULLY WITH VOLUNTEERS

3/12/01

*Ann Beattie
Suffolk*

DRUGS, ALCOHOL & YOUNG PEOPLE

6/12/01

*Simon Floyd
Norwich*

INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY

10/12/01

*Ann Beattie
Essex*

HEALTH & SAFETY

10/12/01

*Melanie Hines
TBC*

MANAGING INCLUSION SERIES

HOUSING DRUG USERS

11/12/01

*One day conference
Norwich*

EFFECTIVE TIME MANAGEMENT

12/12/01

*Diane Woodhouse
Norwich*

HEALTH & SAFETY

13/12/01

*Melanie Hines
Suffolk*

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING

13/12/01 & 14/12/01

*Brian Walker
Norwich*

CONTACT VHG FOR DETAILS

COMING TO A MEETING ROOM NEAR YOU !

Want to know about Supporting People but too shy to ask? Now's your chance to get wised up

Open access meetings where you can see the promotional video, meet District Council Supporting People lead officers, and pick up an information pack

LONG STRATTON Monday 19th November 12.30pm - 4.00pm South Norfolk District Council Offices, Swan Lane Long Stratton

KINGS LYNN Tuesday 20th November 12.30 - 4.00pm Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council Offices, Chapel Street, Kings Lynn

NORTH WALSHAM Tuesday 20th November 2.30 - 4.00pm Masters Court, North Walsham

GREAT YARMOUTH Wednesday 28th November 10.00am - 12.30pm Christchurch Methodist Church King Street Great Yarmouth

**Want to know more ? –
contact Chris Greenhill
01603 223079**

VHG Annual General Meeting

VHG's AGM was held on 31st October 2001 at the United Reform Church Rooms and was well attended. Members will have received a copy of the Annual Report in their monthly mailing. It was an interesting morning with opportunities for members to meet VHG and each other. For a copy of VHG's Annual Report please contact Emma Daniel on 01603 617299.

New Board Members - Retiring Board Members were thanked for their hard work. Joanna McCormac stepped down as Treasurer and Rod Thompson of The

Assist Trust was elected as Treasurer for 2001/2002. VHG also welcome Jo Huxtable of Stonham Housing Association. A full 'team photo' of this year's Board is on VHG's website www.vhg-east.org.

*Gary Barnes,
Chairman*



A day in the life of...

The Dawe Charitable Trust was established in 1999. The aim of the project is to offer accommodation and employment to homeless people. The project is primarily for people who want to get back into work but would benefit from doing this within a supported environment.

The Trust houses up to eight residents and is staffed by myself and my colleague, Sheila Dawe. Employment at the project is carried out in the ceramics workshop which is staffed by Charles Bumfrey, workshop manager and Will Simpson, the sales manager.

Although this could not be described as 'an average day in the life of...'. It is a day that particularly sticks in my mind. We had booked a stand at the Norfolk ideal home exhibition. This was to be the first big showcase for the hand-made tiles that are produced in our ceramics workshop.

Everyone had been working extremely hard to pull everything together in the week before the exhibition. Particularly Will, the sales manager, Charlie, the workshop manager and all the residents who work at the project. In fact, everyone was up to their eyes in producing, painting and glazing tiles as well as putting together the large displays we needed for the show.

Most other work was abandoned that week as all the communal rooms in the house, and even some of the bedrooms filled up with tiles and display boards in various stages of completion.

When the day of the show finally arrived Will and Charlie set up the stand and prepared for a long weekend. The rest of us planned to visit the show en masse in the afternoon. That morning however, we had a call from our head office in Cambridge to say that they would be arriving at lunchtime with a crew from their local cable T.V. channel to film the work carried out in the workshop in order to make an advertisement for our tiles. Everyone seemed to take this very much in their stride and it all went without a hitch.

We eventually made it to the show and I am pleased to say that it was a great success. The stand looked great, we received a lot of positive feedback and Will made many useful contacts. It was a great confidence boost for the residents to see the fruits of their hard work on public display. They had all arrived at the project

Christine Sanderson
The Dawe Charitable Trust

with no experience in ceramics but had, over a relatively short period of time developed skills and utilised their individual talents to produce high quality work that made a huge contribution to the success of the show. I think we all felt pretty pleased with ourselves that day!