



Newsletter

August 2009 - Issue 19

Welcome to the nineteenth edition of the **Oxfordshire Supporting People Newsletter**.

Here is some news of things happening in the Oxfordshire Supporting People programme.

Please ensure it reaches service users and front-line staff.

Housing Support Fair

The Supporting People Service User Working Group is organising a Fair offering information about the short term housing support available in Oxfordshire.

The fair will be held on Wednesday 16 September in the Assembly Room, Oxford Town Hall between 10am and 3pm.

Agencies and providers will be on hand at the Fair to raise awareness about short term services which are designed to help people live more independently.

The Fair is the first piece of work that has been planned and put into action by the Service User Working Group.

It is the result of weeks of commitment, creativity and hard work by members of the Group.

The Fair's success depends on providers' efforts to encourage service users to attend.

Lorraine Donnachie and Sarah Carter lead on service user involvement in the Supporting People team.

Lucy Faithfull House

Two Saints is due to take over providing housing related support at Lucy Faithfull House in Oxford on 1 November 2009.

Two Saints won a tender exercise to take over from English Churches Housing Group.

Two Saints is a Newbury-based housing association, which has not worked in Oxfordshire before.

Lorraine Donnachie has led on this tender within the Oxfordshire Supporting People team.

Older people

The tender for new county-wide, round-the-clock services for older people finally got under way in July.

The deadline for expressions of interest was 14 August and the project is currently at the shortlisting stage.

Alison Fishpool leads on services for older people within the Supporting People team.

Young people and teenage parents

The tender for new services for young people and teenage parents has reached the visits and presentations stage.

John Terry in the County Council's Children Young People and Families directorate leads on this project.

People with mental health problems

A joint project is underway with NHS Oxfordshire to re-commission services for people with mental health problems.

A firm of consultants called SP Solutions won the contract to conduct the first stage of the project by early September.

A full-time, fixed-term post has been created to lead on this project within the Supporting People team.

Domestic violence

The Core Strategy Group agreed to commission new domestic violence outreach services in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire.

This project has passed the Expressions of Interest stage and the detailed service specification is now being finalised for the invitation to tender.

Paul Walmsley is leading on this tender within the Supporting People team.

Handyperson services

The government has awarded the Oxfordshire Supporting People programme £330,000 to spend on handyperson services in 2009-11.

The County Council will conduct a tender for the services the partnership decides to commission.

Sarah Carter is leading on this project within the Oxfordshire Supporting People team.

Wet house

The Core Strategy Group has also agreed to commission a wet house in Oxford.

Oxford City Council is waiting to hear if it has been awarded capital funding from the government for this initiative.

Lorraine Donnachie is leading on this within the Supporting People team.

Offenders

A project to commission housing related support for offenders and people at risk of offending is due to happen on a Thames Valley basis.

The project is being overseen by the Thames valley Supporting People Cross Authority Group.

The group brings together nine Supporting People teams with the Thames Valley Probation Service.

Interviews for a part-time, one-year post to conduct the review are due to take place on 4 September.

Service User Working Group

Oxfordshire Supporting People has a service user involvement strategy.

The key objectives of the strategy are to improve access and quality and to enable service users to take part in strategic decision making.

The Service User Working Group has been formed to work together to help deliver the objectives.

The Group consists of a maximum of ten committed service users or former service users. The Group has vacancies at present.

The Group meets fortnightly, generally in Oxford. If anyone has to travel to attend the meetings they can claim for travel expenses.

If you know of anyone interested in committing time and enthusiasm, please either contact us on their behalf or ask them to get in touch with Sarah Carter or Lorraine Donnachie.

Directory of Services

The Supporting People team published a new Directory of Services in June.

It's available from the County Council's website and from the national Supporting People website.

The Supporting People team aim to update the new directory quarterly – with the help of service providers.

The government is closing down its national, online directory of services. So it's now up to Supporting People teams to publicise what's available. Danny Hearn and Sheila Jackson lead on this in the Supporting People team.

Strategy 2008-11

The Supporting People team is trying to make available the current Supporting People Strategy 2008-11 on the Internet and in a few printed copies.

Sheila Jackson is leading on this in the Supporting People team.

Restructure

The Supporting People team may be restructured when Geoffrey Ferres leaves on 25 September. We will let you have details of any changes.

Geoffrey is to become Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Sitra.

Phone numbers

Please note the team's new phone numbers.

We haven't moved, but the County Council is changing its phone system so we now have 01865 numbers.

Commissioning Body

The next meeting of the Supporting People Commissioning Body is on Friday 4 September at 10.30am in County Hall, Oxford.

Meetings take place in public.

In July the Oxfordshire Public Service Board agreed that the Commissioning Body would continue to have responsibility for commissioning housing related support services.

This followed a long period when it seemed this responsibility would be transferred to a different body, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

Provider Forum

2009 meetings take place at Exeter Hall, Kidlington from 1.30pm – 4.00pm on the following dates:

- 14 September 2009
- 7 December 2009

The provider representatives on the Core Strategy Group are:

Carole Clark (Bromford)
Clare Bell (Sanctuary)
Mark Thompson (Connection)
Simon Newton (Response)

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