

Bradford and District Advice Centres' Support Group
(Management Committee)
18/05/07

Present: Lynette Kirk, Alison Rooks, Liz Reveley, Zahida Mallard, Salim Akhtar, Sandra Grice, Liz Wooles,

Apologies:, Andy Taylor, Barbara Dorgan-Smith, Roman

Declarations of Interest. None

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 20/04/07 were discussed and the following amendment made:

Alison Rooks was proposed as vice-chair Zahida and seconded by Sandra. This was passed unanimously.

Otherwise the minutes were accepted as correct.

Matters Arising:

1. Liz W asked what notice had been given for the Jobcentreplus liaison meeting. This had been done by e-mail. It was agreed it would be useful to have advance dates and Liz R agreed to contact JC+ and try to arrange this.
2. Wednesday meetings will resume on June 26th at Olicana House with a talk from Family Mediation. They will be bi-monthly and will have a speaker for the first half and then information sharing.
3. It was agreed that communication needs to be improved. Salim is preparing a newsletter and the web-site can be updated. Liz R suggested we need to "brand" ourselves as a group in order to get advice onto the agenda.

Correspondence:

1. Julie R-J has e-mailed that the report for the financial inclusion money is overdue. This will be done shortly.
2. C-Net has sent proposal forms for the election of officers. Andy, Sandra and Kenny or Barbara were proposed. A protocol is needed for reporting back to the group when anyone represents the ACSG on any

group.

3. Dave Reynolds has e-mailed Sandra saying he does not get any feedback from the group, especially with respect to the new commissioning process. It was agreed that we will accept the council's offer to publish our minutes on their web-site. Sandra will send a copy to Claire Tomminson. There will be links from the ACSG web-site when this can be set up. The ACSG has not been consulted or given information on the commissioning process.

Financial Report: The post of treasurer is in the process of passing from Jan to Andy. Contact has been made with the lottery regarding changes to the bid. Until this is confirmed there can be no progress with the recruitment.

Training Officer's report: Salim tabled his report. There are currently 20 new volunteers and host agencies are sought for 5 of them. It was suggested that CLASP are asked to contact the advice sector on our behalf. Salim asked the board to consider piloting e-training for trustees and this was agreed.

Sandra thanked Salim and Lynette for all their hard work with the first cohort of trainees, who received their certificates at an award ceremony at Windhill Community Centre on 14th May.

Clasp report. Lynette tabled a written report. It was noted that Javed Khan represents the advice sector on the Central and Eastern European working group and it was agreed to ask him to come and talk to the management committee about it. There is no official data on A8/A2 workers - the estimate for the area is 15000. New interpreters are being trained. Elections to CLASP are due in Sept. Sandra to contact interested parties. As the meetings are open it was suggested that interested people attend meanwhile to see what's involved. Reps will need to be prepared to feed back to the advice sector. The scheduled meetings are 11 July, 12 Sept and 7 Nov.

Social Policy: Liz reported that the cost of a spouse applying for indefinite leave to remain has risen to £755 and they have to pass the English Test (ESOL 3 equivalent) or the Life in the UK test. If they fail that they lose the fee. At the same time access to free language tuition has been cut. Monitor please. Could we use a wed meeting to launch a campaign around

immigration and nationality?

AOB. Liz W asked if anyone could produce an updated advice service leaflet. Unfortunately no-one currently has time to do it. It is hoped that the website could be designed so that individual groups could go in to update their own details.

Next committee meeting is at Manningham Advice on June 15th at 10 am