



Hammersmith and Fulham Advice Forum

Minutes

12 January 2017, 2pm – 4pm

Copies and attachments to the minutes are held on the Advice Station website

<http://www.advicestation.org.uk/info/reports-resources/advice-forum/afm-12012017>

Venue: Hammersmith Town Hall, London W6 9JU

Attendees:

Alan Connell	Hestia
Angela Malik	Staying First
Barbara Shelton	UPG - Community Champion - Addison
Bernice Wood	Shepherds Bush Families Project
Charlotte Sinclair	HF CAB
Colin Morris	DWP
Daphine Aikens	HF Foodbank
Helen Rowe	UPG - Community Champion - EW
Jefferey Smith	Stoll
Joseph Pascual	LBHF
Katherine Green	Crosslight
Keith Mallinson	HF Mind
Linda Thomas	LBHF / tri-borough
Malgosia Pakulska	EERC (East European Resource Centre)
Mandy Goodall	HF Law Centre
Margaret Magnusson	HF CAB
Norica Campbell	HBHF Housing Paths
Paul Rosenberg	LBHF
Renata Burns	HF Law Centre
Richard Goodman	HF CAB
Roselyn Ezendiokwele	Hestia
Sarah Robinson	Action on Disability
Shad Haibatan	SOBUS
Sophie Brassington	Stoll
Sue James	HF Law Centre
Velma Baptiste	LBHF Housing
Viv Whittingham	LBHF
Zahra Beg	LBHF Housing Options

1. Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

No comments or amendments to the minutes of the last meeting.

2. New Developments in Adult Social Care

Viv Whittingham – Head of Service Care and Assessment, Adult Social Care, LBHF gave an overview of the service in the borough and explained the work they do.

Viv will produce an overview of the service, detailing who does what. The document will be held with the minutes once available.

In the meantime, please see the PeopleFirst website for details of how to request an assessment:
<http://www.peoplefirstinfo.org.uk/at-home/staying-in-your-own-home/requesting-an-assessment-in-hammersmith-and-fulham.aspx>

ASC also do some work on hoarding. They have produced a hoarding assessment tool and a clutter rating index. These are held with the minutes.

H&F Mind run a hoarding support group. Agencies can refer clients to H&F Mind. Full details are on their website.

<http://www.hfmind.org.uk/services/hf-hoarding-group.htm>

The referral form is also via the above link and is also held with these minutes.

3. The Community Champions Programme in Hammersmith and Fulham

Linda Thomas, Public Health Department, Tri borough gave an overview of the Community Champions programme.

The programme is funded by Public Health and has six projects in H&F in the following areas:

Addison

Bayonne and Field Road

Edward Woods

Old Oak

Parkview (Wormholt and White City, Askew Shepherd's Bush Green)

West Kensington and Gibbs Green

<http://www.communitychampionsuk.org/>

4. DWP update

Colin Morris, Partner Support Manager, Department for Work and Pensions gave an update.

New **PIP** claims are being dealt with in 10 - 16 weeks depending on their complexity. There are now 1.9 million people on PIP and the assessments are continuing.

New **Attendance Allowance** claims are being processed within 15 weeks and renewal claims within 10 weeks. There is a backlog of work here from the end of last year.

There is a back log of work at the Newcastle Pension Centre which is affecting Pension Credit claims clearance times.

Universal Credit – there have been 850k claims made up until the end of November 2016. Of these, 420k are now receiving Universal Credit and 250k of those claims are in the work search category.

Acton and Southall offices will commence full service delivery of new Universal Credit claims in October 2017. Ealing will be in December 2017.

Existing benefit claims will not migrate onto Universal Credit until 2020/21 at the earliest.

DHP - if a Discretionary Housing Payment is awarded and the claimant has a managed alternative payment of their housing costs to their landlord, the DWP will stop the managed payment. This issue is being looked at and the situation may well change in the future, details will be published in the DWP newsletter when further information becomes available.

There was a question about whether LBHF should be paying supported housing costs. Colin will have checked this with his project team and confirmed that **supported housing is definitely outside of the Universal Credit remit and the Housing Benefit should remain in payment.**

5. H&F Link update

Joseph Pascual, HB Assist Manager, Housing Options, LBHF, gave an update of the H&F Link service which has been set up to help clients affected by the benefit cap.

The main objective of the H&F Link service is homelessness prevention and is primarily aimed at anyone affected by the Benefit Cap and/or Universal Credit living in privately rented or temporary accommodation. The service helps with housing benefit issues, DHP and employment issues. There is still £200k in the DHP budget (to 31 March 2017)

Agencies can call up to book an appointment for clients or use the [referral form](#) (held with these minutes). Contact details are: t: 0208 753 1587, e: h&f.link@lbhf.gov.uk

A timetable for H&F Link is held with these minutes.

6. Agenda items and AOB

Polish Crime Advocates – a hate crimes project run by EERC

This is a new specialist advocacy project being run by EERC which provides individual tailored support to Polish people who have been victims of / witnessed hate crime in London

Polish Crime Advocates

Open Monday – Friday 9.30 – 17.00

t: 020 8741 1288, 0800 121 4226

e: hatecrime@eerc.org.uk

w: eerc.org.uk/hate-crime/

7. Date of next meetings

Future meetings dates:

February 28 2017

April 12 2017

June 7 2017

July 19 2017

All meetings are between 2 and 4pm in H&F Town Hall