



Hammersmith and Fulham Advice Forum

Minutes

15 September 2016, 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-15092016>

Venue: Hammersmith Town Hall, London W6 9JU

Attendees:

Anujit Kaur	LBHF ASC
Barbara Drozdowicz	EEAC (East European Advice Centre)
Carly Thomas	Shelter
Clare Hughes-Cross	St Mungos
Councillor Sue Fennimore	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion
Derec Craig	Age UK
Jonathan Martin	DEBK
Joseph Pascual	LBHF
Katherine Green	Crosslight
Katie White	Ealing Law Centre
Lorraine Thompson	HF Law Centre
Mandy Goodall	HF Law Centre
Milka Witkowska	The Upper Room
Norica Cambell	LBHF Housing Paths
Paul Rosenberg	LBHF
Richard Butlin	Staying First
Samantha Warburton	St Mungo's Welfare Rights
Simi Ryatt	HF CAB
Stephan Wiedmer	Crosslight Advice
Sue James	HF Law Centre
Tarequl Islam	Pinnacle PSG
Tracy Chambers	Staying First
Velma Baptiste	LBHF Housing
Vicky Feulkes	Ealing Law Centre
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. EU / Brexit implications for EU citizens

Adrian Berry, Barrister at Garden Court Chambers, gave a presentation on this. The presentation is held with these minutes.

3. Universal Credit update

Velma Baptiste, Rental Income Team Manager, LBHF, gave an update on UC. The council have produced a leaflet for residents. This is held with these minutes.

4. Housing Options Floating Support Service

Norica Campbell, Housing Options, LBHF, gave an overview of the service.

Housing floating support is a free, short term (3 – 6 months) service to residents in the borough who are having difficulties managing their accommodation and staying independent in the community. Floating support aims to help clients to resolve a crisis and to take control of their lives.

The service can help clients in many ways, including: moving into a new property or supported accommodation; managing finances; managing bills, applying for the correct benefits, form filling; linking clients into education, employment or training; support with accessing mental and physical health services.

HF Law Centre requested that clients with a possession order be referred directly to them.

There has been a considerable drop in referrals and the service is keen to pick up more clients. Clients can be referred by agencies or can self-refer. The Referral Form is held with these minutes.

A leaflet fully outlining the service is held with these minutes.

5. Round table update and discussion

Staying First - New benefit and debt advice service for Fulham residents launches October 1 2016. The service is by appointment only and will be delivered on three half days. Clients can be referred by agencies or can self-refer.

Leaflet and Referral Form are held with these minutes.

Staying First are hopeful that they can offer their furniture service soon. DEBK has put in a planning application but has hit problems regarding existing use / new use. Cllr Sue Fennimore will try to help with the process.

Citizens Advice H&F – telephone number for advice enquiries is changing from 3 October 2016.

For any new enquiry (excluding Debt) the number clients should call is 0300 330 1162

For any new Debt enquiry the number clients should call is 020 3137 6295

For help with an existing problem (to contact one's adviser) the number clients should call is 020 7386 9068

LBHF – there is still money available in the DHP budget. Paul Rosenberg encouraged organisations to claim this when appropriate.

6. Date of next meeting

24 November 2016. The meeting will be held between 2pm and 4pm at H&F Town Hall.