

Meetings Round-up

User Experience Survey Steering Group Meeting 6th June

The meeting focussed on the pilot survey about to take place for those receiving community equipment and/or minor adaptations. The questions and the issues they raised were gone over in some detail and some of the questions would be tested out in the pilot phase of the survey.

Councils taking part in the pilot should now be well into the process with the results going back to the Information Centre during August. If all goes well the full national survey should take place in February 2008.

The agenda also included an item on discussing further surveys after next years. The meeting was not able to get around to this and it was to be re-tabled at a future meeting. Several possibilities were raised including a survey on carers and a repeat of the Home Care survey for people over 65.

As this is still up for discussion there is time for councils to have input into the process and any ideas or comments should be fed back to the Information Centre. All minutes and related papers can be found at the Information Centre's website: www.ic.nhs.uk/sigasc/ssusergroup

Social Care Research Showcase 22nd June

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A prestigious event at the British Library with a great lunch hosted by the Department of Health Policy Research Programme. The event looked at delivering better evidence for better policy making and to do this there were interesting presentations from people such as David Behan and Professor Janet Newman. Allied to this there was the opportunity to take part in a series of workshops under the headings of Personalisation, Care Environments, Assessment and Access and the Care Workforce. The day also included the official launch of the Research Register for Social Care, which is destined to become an invaluable resource for social care based evidence.

For me the day was summed up in a quote (though I can't remember who said it!) **"It's time to change the assumption that only**

services affect people's lives and therefore only service inputs should be measured".

Education for All: Tackling Homophobia in Our Schools 5th July

Bullying causes permanent damage to young people and blights the schools and colleges where it takes place. One of the most invisible forms is homophobic bullying.

Homophobia affects all pupils and students – lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight. This was a follow up the last year's conference where the anti homophobic bullying campaign was launched. The day included the launch of a report "The School Report – the experiences of young gay people in Britain's Schools" and was fairly hard hitting. Some messages were:

- Four in five secondary school teachers say they are aware of verbal homophobic bullying
- One in four secondary teachers is aware of physical homophobic bullying
- Just 6% of British schools have fully inclusive anti-bullying policies